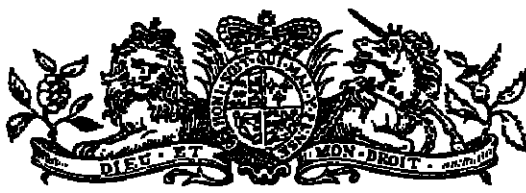


Prior to return back

No 61,838

THE



THE TIMES

WEDNESDAY MAY 23 1984

20p

THE TIMES Tomorrow

Seven year hitch
Tony Palmer's epic film *Wagner* is just beginning to see an end to the troubles which have beset it since its conception in 1977

Time out
Bernard Levin takes a break from a tour of the United States to meet a literary hero

Something new
James Fenton reviews Kingsley Amis' new novel *Stanley and the Women* and Lord Birkett celebrates the 50th anniversary of Glydebourne



Playing on
David Hands reports on England's rugby tour match of South Africa at Stellenbosch

India riot toll rises to 125

Rioting has spread to the tenements of Bombay, and the death toll rose as security forces repeatedly opened fire to disperse rival mobs of Hindus and Muslims. At least 125 people have died since the fighting broke out last week. Page 8

Schools closed

Strike action by the National Union of Teachers closed many primary and secondary schools as 4,000 teachers began a three-day withdrawal of labour to back pay demands. Page 2

Tunnel vision

A bankers' report on backing for the Channel Tunnel has found that private financiers would not take the risk without receiving government guarantees. Back page

Facts of life

Young Poles have so little sexual knowledge that shotgun weddings are rife. The Army has been ordered to enlighten conscripts. Page 8

Détente over

Relations between Moscow and Washington have plummeted during the past three months to their lowest level since the 1962 Cuban missile crisis. Page 6
Leading article, page 13

Baby science

Scientific advances in human reproduction have moved so fast that the government committee appointed to report on the social implications is faced with an awesome task. Page 2

Emery dispute

The widow and mistress of Dick Emery, the comedian, are battling in the High Court over his £128,000 will. Page 3

Gower's hour

David Gower's appointment as captain of England's cricket team, replacing Bob Willis, is seen as opening up a new frontier. Page 22

THE TIMES 1984 BUDGET BRIEFING

Mr John Moore, Financial Secretary to the Treasury explained the thinking behind the Government's tax reforms at *The Times* 1984 Budget Briefing in London. Kenneth Fleet, page 17, conference report, pages 20, 21

Letters: On housing, from Mr Bruce Chivers; draft treaty, from Mr P. Horsfield, QC; diverging creeds, from the Dean of Durham

Leading articles: East-West relations; Channel tunnel; Features, pages 10-12; Hard defence choices; beating the hard left on education; Reagan's cool spots; Spectrum: Yours sincerely, Rothschild; Wednesday Page: Angela Huth, dolled up for death; Obituary, page 14; Lord Coleridge, Mr Karl-August Fagerholm

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Prior fails to win support on initiatives for Ulster

By Anthony Bevin, Political Correspondent

Government sources last night scornfully dismissed an open appeal from Mr James Prior, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, for "one more effort" to reach an Ulster breakthrough.

In his radio interview about his future on Monday, Mr Prior was seen to have put himself out on a limb. Yesterday he issued a carefully-prepared statement designed to restore his credibility.

But senior Whitehall sources made it clear that "dear old Jim" had no Cabinet authority for any go-it-alone initiatives. They appeared quite happy to add humiliation to the minister's embarrassment.

Mr Prior said yesterday that it was natural for people to speculate that after three years in Ulster he would be giving up the post some time later this year. In the meantime, he pledged himself to work flat out to make progress.

He then challenged everyone involved, including the Government, "actively to stretch out to those whose views they do not share."

"Alone one can do little, alone no one can succeed, but together we could all grasp this nettle and gradually reach sanity and peace. There is no

other way and I commit myself to it over these next few months."

It is understood that there has been no communication between the Prime Minister and Mr Prior since the BBC Radio Norfolk interview and that the first Downing Street knew of the statement was when Mr Prior's private office got in touch with the Prime Minister's Office yesterday morning.

Sources said that there was no question of a reshuffle before the autumn, and that the Prime Minister was most unlikely to approve initiatives or grandiose designs for their own sake - or for Mr Prior's sake.

The precise question of Mr Prior's remaining authority was later raised in the Commons by Mr Neil Kinnock, who asked Mrs Margaret Thatcher about the minister's dispirited comments, and the serious doubts about his position.

"What action is she now going to take to ensure that the necessary authority and the necessary confidence is restored to the crucial office of Secretary of State for Northern Ireland?" Mr Kinnock asked.

The Prime Minister said: "Mr Prior is a very effective Secretary of State for Northern Ireland. He will continue to carry out his duties."

Mr Kinnock attempted the same question again, but Mrs Thatcher simply added that Mr Prior did enjoy her confidence and the Labour leader was forced to leave the matter.

There was strong speculation at Westminster yesterday that when the shuffle comes Mrs Thatcher might favour Mr Ian Gow, Minister for Housing and her former parliamentary private secretary, for the Ulster hotseat.

Prior's interests, page 2
Parliament, page 4

Saudis are ready to use force

By Henry Stanhope, Diplomatic Correspondent

Gulf war tension rose again yesterday after a warning from King Fahd that Saudi Arabia would use its full military power to protect its territory against attack. Steps had already been taken to prepare Saudi national defences after the air raids by Iran against Saudi and other shipping in the Gulf, he told an overnight Cabinet meeting.

The King's warning underlined that already given by Shaikh Yamani, his Oil Minister, who said in Brussels that Saudi would retaliate against further aggression.

It was made more serious against a background of continuing threats and counter-threats by Iran and Iraq - while in New York, the United Nations Security Council prepared to hold a special session on the crisis.

From Baghdad, the Iraqi Government of President Saddam Hussein declared that its armed forces had all the weapons necessary to destroy the Iranian oil terminal at Kharg Island should the need arise.

The warning came in the ruling Baath Party newspaper *Thawra* which added that Iraq would continue to attack tankers approaching or leaving the terminal - the main outlet for Iran's depleted oil exports.

Iran responded swiftly with a foreign ministry statement denouncing a resolution condemning Iranian attacks passed by the Arab League at their Tunis meeting at the weekend, and threatened once more to block all exports from the Gulf.

Iran has repeatedly warned the rest of the world of possible repercussions in the region if the air attacks, begun by Iraq, continued against ships plying to and from Kharg Island. So far 20 ships have been damaged by one side or another since January.

The increasing danger of Saudi Arabia being dragged into the conflict, perhaps with the American backing, meant that the situation was precariously balanced last night between diplomacy on the one side and an escalation of the fighting on the other.

● WASHINGTON: President Reagan has reaffirmed to King Fahd his determination to keep the Gulf open to international shipping, if necessary by force (Mohsin Ali writes).

Officials here emphasized the US was not planning unilateral military intervention, and would consider giving air cover and other aid to the moderate Gulf states only if asked.

Tit-for-tat expulsion linked to Bettaney and Skinner cases

Moscow orders out British envoy

By Richard Owen and John Witherow

The Soviet Union has expelled the head of security at the British Embassy in Moscow, apparently in retaliation for the expulsion of a Soviet diplomat and suspected KGB general from London.

The two expulsions appear to link together the death in Moscow of the British banker Dennis Skinner and the exposure of the MI5 spy Michael Bettaney in a tangled web of espionage.

Mr John Burnett, First Secretary at the British Embassy in Moscow and responsible for security, was ordered on Monday to leave Russia within seven days. Mr Burnett, seconded from the Ministry of Defence, testified last week at the inquest in Croydon into the death of Mr Skinner, who fell from his eleventh-floor flat.

The man expelled from London was Arkadi Gouk, First Secretary at the Soviet Embassy and a KGB officer. Mr Gouk, was singled out by Bettaney as a suitable contact for receiving top-secret information about MI5's assessment of KGB activity in Britain.

For reasons still unexplained, MI5 became aware of the expulsion of Mr Gouk, who was arrested last year before he had done much damage. Bettaney was sentenced last month at the Central Criminal Court to 23 years in prison. It was suggested then that Mr Skinner, who said he had identified a spy in the British security forces, may have played a part in exposing Bettaney.

The announcement of the expulsions was made simultaneously yesterday by the Foreign Office and the British Embassy in Moscow. It seems that the Government had little intention of announcing Mr Gouk's expulsion on May 14, and was only forced to by the Soviet decision to order out Mr Burnett.

Sir Iain Sutherland, the British Ambassador, was summoned to the Soviet Foreign Ministry on Monday and told by Mr Vladimir Suslov, head of the second European department, that Mr Burnett must be withdrawn by Sunday. Sir Iain protested strongly against this "totally unjustified move against a member of the embassy."

As head of security, Mr Burnett would have had links with MI5, the security service, which uses the Ministry of Defence as cover for its surveillance and counter-espionage activities.

A Foreign Office spokesman made it clear Mr Burnett's expulsion was in reply to the British move against Mr Gouk. "It is clear that the Soviet action was taken in response to the fact that on May 14 the Soviet Chargé d'Affaires in London was informed by Sir Antony Acland, Permanent Under-Secretary at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, that, in accordance with the provisions of Article Nine of the Vienna Convention, Mr A. V. Gouk, should leave the UK by May 21," he said.

Continued on back page, col 1



Sent home: Mr Arkadi Gouk, KGB officer contacted by MI5 spy Michael Bettaney and expelled from London this month, and (right) Mr John Burnett on his way to give evidence at the Croydon inquest on banker Dennis Skinner.

The Foreign Office would not elaborate on the reason for the expulsion of Mr Gouk, who arrived in Britain in September, 1980, but said it had nothing to do with the expulsions announced early yesterday of two members of the Czechoslovak Embassy in London.

The Czechoslovaks ordered out on May 3 because Mr Bohumir Seda the Vice-Consul, and Mr Jan Malasek a clerk, had been "engaged in activities incompatible with their status" - the normal Whitehall euphemism for spying.

Mr Gouk's expulsion differed from the standard wording for espionage. By quoting the Vienna Convention, the Foreign Office was breaking with tradition and saying it could expel any diplomat if a "member of the staff of the mission is not acceptable."

Diplomatic sources suggested it could mean the security services had no concrete proof of Mr Gouk's involvement in espionage but sufficient circumstantial evidence to remove him. Although it was said at Bettaney's trial that the KGB failed to respond to his proposals, intelligence experts believe Mr Gouk would have contacted KGB headquarters in Moscow.

Whitehall's attempt to keep the expulsion of the Czechoslovaks and Mr Gouk secret as being interpreted yesterday as an effort not to increase tension in relation with the Soviet block.

Continued on back page, col 1

Scargill to meet coal board

By Paul Routledge, Labour Editor

Miners' leaders and the National Coal Board are to meet face to face today for the first time since the "rolling strike" started nearly eleven weeks ago. But the prospects of an early settlement look remote.

Mr Arthur Scargill, president of the National Union of Mineworkers, last night reaffirmed his position that the board must withdraw its plan to shut 20 pits with the loss of 20,000 jobs before the union orders a return to work.

The coal board is also sticking to its guns, insisting that the meeting will review "the overall commercial aspects of the coal industry at the present moment". This would involve union recognition of the need to close down "uneconomic" capacity.

The way for talks was cleared when Kent miners' leaders agreed to withdraw the token picket they have been mounting outside Hobart House, the board's London headquarters, so that the union's executive could take up a long-standing invitation to meet the board.

This meeting is a scheduled discussion normally held every six months. Coal board officials did not expect the miners to turn up, but the routine consultative gathering has taken on a powerful new significance.

Mr Scargill said the union was prepared to attend the Hobart House conference, but he added: "We shall be demanding that the NCB withdraw from the pit closure programme. This was the only way the dispute could be resolved. That is frankly the only thing we want to discuss."

Coal board managers are not confident about the talks. But the board wants to test whether the public rhetoric of Mr Scargill is matched by the private bargaining of his 24-man executive.

A few more miners went to work yesterday in north Derbyshire, but the anti-strike campaign seems to have been halted in South Wales.

The ten-man Derbyshire area committee of the union decided unanimously to suspend from membership men who cross picket lines.

● In Yorkshire, where the strike started, 76 Barnsley colliery winders, the men who operate the cages, are planning a ballot on a return to work (the Press Association reports).

The winders' branch secretary, Mr Bob Coppin, said: "We feel we have suffered long enough. There will be intimidation from pickets, but the lads in Nottinghamshire have endured it."

● The Prime Minister yesterday criticized miners' leaders during angry Commons exchanges for failing to condemn intimidation of working miners (Our Political Reporter writes).

● Brittan attack, page 2
Parliamentary report, page 4

Interest fears send world shares falling

By William Kay, City Editor

Billions of pounds were cut from the value of shares on the world's leading stock markets yesterday amid growing fears of a global interest rates war.

The collapse was inspired by Wall Street's fall to 13-month low on Monday in the wake of the Continental Illinois Bank rescue package.

Within hours the Tokyo market began plunging to an 11-week low. At one point the Nikkei-Dow Jones average fell below the psychologically important 10,000 barrier, but closed a net 103.03 down on the day at 10,061.94.

Meanwhile, although the Hong Kong and Singapore markets recovered, recent depths, in Sydney share price falls outnumbered rises by almost five to one on the weakness in Wall Street.

As the sun moved, Johannesburg closed lower in moderate trading, then London picked up the mood, prodded further downwards by the impasse over the miners' strike and *The Times* report that public spending limits may be breached this year. After a slow start, the fall gathered pace, ending with the FT 30 share index 19.9 down at 856.2.

This set the trend throughout Europe. Amsterdam, Brussels, Madrid, Stockholm and Paris all lost ground. Frankfurt was reported mixed.

When the east coast of the US awoke once more, the whole downward spiral was given another twist. By early afternoon local time the Dow Jones industrial average was 14 points down at 1,111.

Fear of higher interest rates spilled into the foreign exchange markets, where the pound fell by 0.2 cents to \$1.3880.

Underlying the worldwide falls were fears that a global bear market may be taking hold, in anticipation of a decline in world trade next year.

Report, page 19

Pereiras allowed to remain

By Pat Healy

Mr Rodney Pereira and his wife Gail, the Indian couple from Bishop's Waltham in Hampshire, were told yesterday that they will be allowed to stay in Britain indefinitely despite an immigration appeal tribunal decision that they should leave.

The Home Office announced last night that Mr David Waddington, Minister of State, had overturned the tribunal decision after "having carefully reconsidered the circumstances of the case".

Mr Waddington, who is in Canada, is believed to have been swayed both by the campaign fought by local villages on the Pereiras' behalf, and by the fact that they have at no stage acted illegally.

The decision will allow the couple to apply for British citizenship in due course. Their daughter, Keira, aged three, was born in Britain and could not be deported.

Report, page 19

Korean airliner crash apologist killed

From Richard Owen, Moscow

A senior Soviet defence chief has been killed "while carrying out his official duties", a phrase which Western military experts say means he died in action or in an air crash.

Colonel-General Semyon Romanov, Chief of Staff of the Soviet air defences, died "suddenly", according to a black-bordered obituary in *Red Star*, the newspaper of the armed forces. General Romanov played a prominent role in the shooting down of a South Korean airliner last September with the loss of 269 civilian lives, and subsequently defended the action in public.

According to some sources the decision was sanctioned by Marshal Aleksandr Koldunov, head of the air defences and Deputy Defence Minister. There is little doubt, however, that the two men consulted each other over the incident or that the decision to fire at the plane with heat-seeking missiles was a military one.

The announcement of General Romanov's death did not say how he had died. Western experts said the wording suggested either that he had been killed with Soviet forces in Afghanistan or that he had perished in a helicopter or aircraft crash.

General Romanov was also Deputy Chief of Staff of the Warsaw Pact, making him one of Moscow's top military commanders.

The obituary was signed by Marshal Dmitry Ustinov, the Defence Minister, and other senior officers, including Marshal Nikolai Ogarkov, the Army Chief of Staff. It described his wartime service and subsequent career, culmi-

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Many schools closed as teachers begin a wave of 3-day strikes

By Richard Garner of the Times Educational Supplement

Strike action by members of the National Union of Teachers forced the closure of primary and secondary schools in many areas yesterday, as 4,000 teachers began a three-day withdrawal of labour in protest over their pay.

The union, which has 235,000 members, said that nearly all of the 124 primary schools selected for strike action had closed for the day, in addition to many of the 100 secondary schools where members were also called out. Only union members taking examination classes have been exempted from the strikes.

Mr Douglas McAvooy, acting general-secretary of the union, said: "Today's action is a considerable extension of the one-day national strike we held. This first phase of three-day action will be repeated after the half-term break next week and will continue for as long as necessary."

"I am heartened by the response from people who are traditionally reluctant strikers but are determined in this campaign."

In all, 42 of the 104 local education authorities in England and Wales were affected by the strike action by the National Union of Teachers yesterday. One of the areas most affected

	TEACHERS' UNIONS		
	Primary	Secondary	Action
National Union of Teachers	156,000	79,000	4,000 on 3-day strike
National Association of Teachers/Union of Women Teachers	97,000	78,000	Estimated 5,000 a day taking action
Association of Teachers and Lecturers	6,500	51,000	Members refusing to cover absences
Professional Association of Teachers		16,000	No action

(Membership figures for teachers in state schools only.)

was Barnet, north London, which includes the Finchley constituency of Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the Prime Minister. Union members of 17 Barnet schools were on strike.

Other areas affected included the Inner London Education Authority, Leeds, north Tyneside and Sheffield.

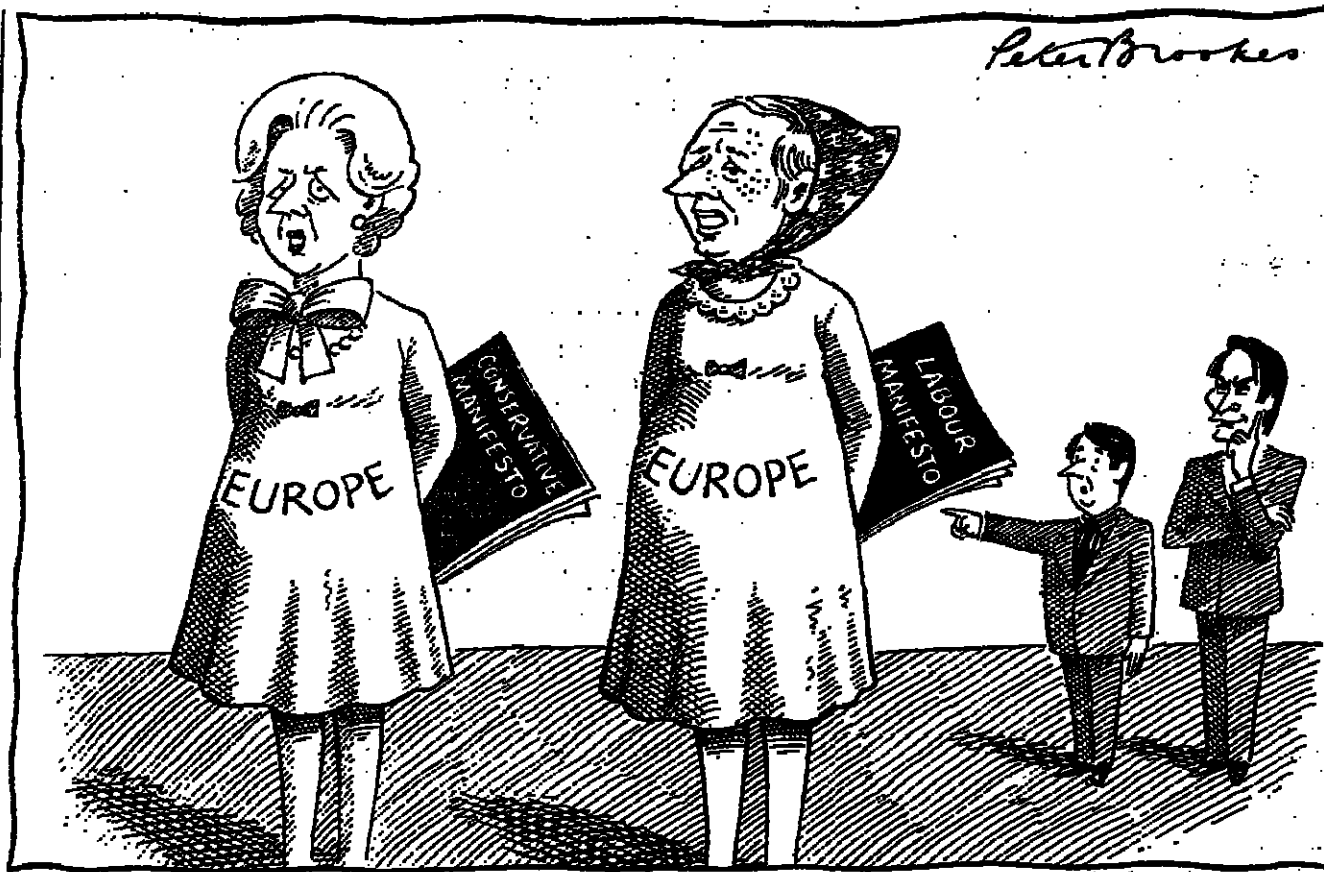
The second largest teachers' union, the National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers, which has 120,000 members, announced yesterday that it was suspending its strike action in two authorities - Cheshire and the Isle of Wight - because the administrations were in favour of the pay claim going to arbitration.

Its action was still continuing in Leeds, where 183 teachers went on half-day strikes yesterday and more than 10,000 pupils were sent home, and Hampshire, where seven pri-

mary and five secondary schools also faced half-day strike action. All NAS/UNT members will leave school early in Hampshire today and mount a lobby of a Hampshire County Council meeting. Mr Philip Merridale, the chairman of the authority's education committee, has led the management side during the pay negotiations.

Members of the Conservative-controlled Association of County Councils' policy committee met today to review the situation. Mr Merridale said that he would sound out their views after a private meeting he held with his opposite number from the Labour-controlled Association of Metropolitan Authorities on Monday.

However, he was not optimistic of an early meeting of the management side to review the dispute.



Brittan says attacks on police foolish

By Our Political Staff

The British public would not be fooled by those who accused the police of intimidation on the miners' picket lines. Mr Leon Brittan, the Home Secretary, told the Conservative Party women's conference in London yesterday.

He said: "The British public know who is doing the intimidating. They know that it is the police. They know that the champions of freedom and democracy are not those brandishing makeshift clubs on the picket lines, but those on the line of policemen who hold them back and all too often, receive the blow."

Mr Brittan got the biggest applause of any ministerial speaker when he re-affirmed the Government's total support for the right of miners to go to work if they chose to do so, and the right of their families to live in peace.

He added: "Nor can there be any doubt of our support for the efforts of the police, under enormous pressure and provocation, to uphold those rights."

The campaign against the Police and Criminal Evidence Bill had brought a stream of paranoid abuse against the police, just as had happened in the coal dispute, he said.

He added: "The absurd attacks on the police by left-wing politicians and union leaders should remind the public just how little confidence they could place in such people's commitment to uphold the law of the land if they were in power." Mr Brittan said.

A High Court judge was asked by three Nottinghamshire miners yesterday to rule that the National Union of Miners had acted illegally in calling them to strike after a secret ballot resulted in a vote to stay at work.

The three men, who say they represent thousands of miners who want to keep on working, are seeking injunctions to allow them to continue to do so until either a national or area strike is properly called for under the rules of the union.

The injunctions are against the union's president, Mr Arthur Scargill; the general secretary, Mr Peter Heathfield; the Nottinghamshire area president, Mr Ray Chadburn; and the area general secretary, Mr Henry Richardson.

The hearing was adjourned until today.

Revolution in parenthood

By Thomson Prentice, Science Correspondent

Test-tube science leaps on

The reproduction revolution is now running so fast that neither society nor its elected guardians can keep up with it. Next month the Warnock Committee will submit to the Government its bulky report on the social implications of *in vitro* fertilization, and ministers will try to draft laws accordingly.

Their task, however, is awesome if not impossible. In the 18 months since Warnock began studying the evidence, the learned committee has frequently been overtaken by scientific events. The report may be largely outdated before it is published.

Increased success

Eighteen months ago, woman undergoing treatment had only a 3 per cent chance of giving birth to a test-tube baby. Since then, the success rate has multiplied by five or more.

The first frozen embryo has been thawed, replaced in its mother's womb and delivered safely in Australia in March as a six-pound girl. Five others are on the way. Six frozen embryos were transferred back into their American mothers last week. Britain's first frozen embryo baby will be born next year.

Two British women were said yesterday to be pregnant as surrogate mothers for childless couples who have paid an American "womb-leasing" agency £13,000, plus medical

fees, to be given the babies a few days after their birth.

Seven techniques are now being used, all of them aimed at providing a child for infertile couples.

IN VITRO FERTILIZATION. Eggs are removed from the woman in an operation usually performed under local anaesthetic. If they are successfully fertilized in a laboratory glass dish - hence *in vitro* - they will be replaced as embryos in the mother's womb, where there is a 15 per cent chance that one or more of them will develop into a full pregnancy, resulting in a live birth.

The technique was developed in the health service by Mr Patrick Steptoe and Dr Robert Edwards, now of the Bourn Hall Clinic, near Cambridge, and produced the world's first test-tube baby, Louise Brown, in 1978, at Oldham and District General Hospital.

SPARE EMBRYOS. These embryos which have resulted from *in vitro* fertilization but which have not been replaced in the mother's womb, may be used for research and study if the parents consent. Under guidelines suggested by the British Medical Association and the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, the growth of such embryos in laboratories for research must be limited to between 14 and 17 days.

EMBRYO FREEZING.

To

enable research on spare embryos, as well as to offer patients more chances of becoming pregnant, the embryos are freeze-stored pending further transfers. They are stored in tanks of liquid nitrogen at temperatures of about 200°C below zero.

SURROGATE MOTHERHOOD. A normal, healthy woman becomes pregnant by being artificially inseminated by the sperm of the man in an infertile partnership. The baby is born and handed over to the couple.

WOMB LEASING. Similar to surrogacy except that a healthy woman carries the embryo, fertilized *in vitro*, from a woman whose womb could not sustain a full pregnancy, and her partner.

ECTOPYSGNIS. The possibility - unlikely but feasible - of an *in vitro* fertilized embryo growing to full-term in an artificial womb created in the laboratory. The baby would never have been in its mother's womb.

EMBRYO DONATION. The possibility of an egg being removed from a fertile woman, fertilized *in vitro* with the sperm of a man whose infertile partner then has the embryo implanted in her womb. Mr Steptoe and Dr Edwards yesterday denied a newspaper report that they were to introduce such a treatment, at least not until after publication and discussion of the Warnock report.

Total strike threatened by seamen

From Barrie Clement

Guernsey

An indefinite national seamen's strike will follow a planned 48-hour ferry stoppage if the Prime Minister does not withdraw plans to sell Sealink to private investors, union leaders said yesterday.

Sealink is destined to follow British Telecom as the next battleground over privatization. The two-day ferry stoppage by 7,000 members of the National Union of Seamen is likely to take place within the next two or three weeks. Delegates at the union's biennial conference in Guernsey called on Mr Jim Slater, the general secretary, to extend the action to other searers.

Ferry services from Cairnryan, near Stranraer, to Larne in Northern Ireland are expected to halt today as more than 450 seamen take sympathy action with 750 colleagues on strike at Felixstowe over the disciplining of three stewards by Townsend Thoresen.

Pay warning by Police Federation

From Stewart Tindler, Scarborough

Leaders of more than 120,000 police officers in England and Wales yesterday served notice that any attempt to alter the present police pay formula would lead to a debate on joining the TUC, and the possibility of industrial action.

The opening shot of what promises to be heated pay negotiations for officers up to the rank of chief inspector, was fired by Mr Leslie Curtis, chairman of the Police Federation, meeting for its annual conference in Scarborough.

Police pay is based on a formula drawn up by Lord Edmund-Davies in a package of reforms on pay and conditions accepted in 1979. Officers now receive a settlement based on the average of the earnings index from May one year to May the next.

The index is running at an average of 7.5 per cent, which indicates police might well get a lower rise than the 8.4 per cent received last year.

However, the Federation fears that local authorities, economically pressed in other

Prior's other interests

By Rupert Morris

Old Hall, Brampton, is now reckoned to be worth at least £750,000. The farm has been managed satisfactorily in Mr Prior's absence on ministerial duties since 1979, and it seems unlikely that at this stage of his career he would wish to resume the farm manager's role.

But Mr Prior's main preoccupation outside his present job in Ulster is not so much farming as the defence of British industry, which he perceives to be under threat from monetarist elements in the Government.

His recent joint enterprise with Sir John Sainsbury to develop the 3,500-acre estate at Lockerly Hall, near Romsey, Hampshire, may be a sound agricultural investment. It is not known how much of the £2m asking price was paid by Mr Prior.

Of equal significance is the fact that Mr Prior is reinforcing his links with industry through the Sainsbury alliance. His own farm provides him with financial security, and his farming expertise combined with his political clout makes him an ideal partner for Sir John.

As a former director of United Biscuits, Mr Prior has long been perceived as a friend and protector of British industry, and it seems likely that if he were to surrender his political position he would be flooded with offers of directorships.

It is at the centre of British industry rather than in the pastures of Suffolk that Mr Prior's most likely alternative future lies.

Equally at home in farming and industry

Mr James Prior, known occasionally as "Farmer Jim", was not born a member of the landed gentry. Although his solicitor father was able to give him a public school education, he is essentially a self-made man.

After gaining a first-class degree in estate management at Pembroke College, Cambridge, he joined a land agent's firm and went on to become agent and manager to Mr John Hill, who farmed 2,000 acres at Halesworth, Suffolk.

In 1957 Mr Prior borrowed money from a bank to buy 380 acres of not particularly good land near Beccles. Since then he has radically improved the drainage and introduced modern machinery and farming methods so successfully that

asking price was paid by Mr Prior.

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No Services memo says Heseltine

Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for Defence, last night officially denied that the chiefs of the three Armed Services had told him in writing of their anxieties about key aspects of his plan to reorganize the highest levels of his department.

But he confirmed, as disclosed in *The Times* on Monday, that his plan was revealed to Field Marshal Sir Edwin Bramall, Chief of the Defence Staff, only two days before it was published.

When asked by the Commons defence select committee if the Service chiefs were "enthusiastic" about his proposals, he told MPs: "I think that would be a slight exaggeration."

Dr John Gilbert, Labour MP for Dudley, East, questioned the Secretary of State over a memorandum, allegedly signed by Admiral Sir John Fieldhouse, Chief of the Naval Staff and First Sea Lord, General Sir John Stanier, Chief of the General Staff, and Air Chief Marshal Sir Keith Williamson, Chief of the Air Staff, in which they supposedly made known their anxiety over Mr Heseltine's plan to remove policy-forming staffs from individual Services.

Mr Heseltine told the all-party committee he had received no document which answered that description.



Jeering students at North London Polytechnic yesterday

NF student escorted to lecture

By Patricia Clough

Mr Patrick Harrington, aged 19, a National Front member, yesterday attended his first lecture in three months at North London Polytechnic after students gave up their attempts to bar him physically from his courses.

Instead about 300 students lined the corridors in silence as Mr Harrington, his solicitor and a High Court tipstaff passed through on their way to his

philosophy lecture. As they left in a taxi an hour later an egg was thrown from behind a group of a hundred, jeering chanting demonstrators behind a barrier opposite. Eight were arrested.

Seven, four men and three women, will appear at Highbury magistrates court today charged with threatening behaviour and obstruction. The eighth was released.

Farmers besiege Jopling in milk row

By Tim Jones, Cardiff

Hundreds of angry farmers surrounded Mr Michael Jopling, the Minister of Agriculture, in Llangadog, west Wales, yesterday and blockaded him inside the community hall for more than two hours.

Scores of other farmers barricaded the three roads into the village with tractors and other farm vehicles.

Earlier the farmers, protesting against EEC milk quotas, had

walked at funeral pace in front of Mr Jopling's car as he made his way to the hall. They poured thousands of gallons of milk into gutters and sprayed 850 gallons from a slurry spreader.

Mr Jopling, who was there to address local Conservatives and farmers' representatives, had to cancel a press conference he had intended to give in Cardiff, because of the delay.

He was jeered and shouted

down when he stepped out of the hall to speak to the farmers, then retreated inside to sit out the siege.

Mr Bob Jones, Dyfed president of the Farmers' Union of Wales, said: "The farmers are very angry at the imposition of quotas for milk. Some small farmers are going to go out of business because of the reduction."

Sale room

£15,950 for Toby jug

By Geraldine Norman, Sale Room Correspondent

The strange madness that afflicts collectors was revealed yesterday when Sotheby's offered for sale a new Toby jug, especially created by the Royal Doulton factory for Jimmy Savile's *Jim'll Fix It* television programme.

To be sold for £15,950 (estimate £400 to £600) the highest price on record for a Toby jug. It was bought by an American collector of Toby jugs bidding over the telephone from the United States.

Only three jugs of this pattern were made and one is permanently lodged in the Royal Doulton Museum. So there is only one other that can ever be owned by a collector. Toby jug collectors must have examples of every design. Hence the bidding. Another collector was bidding over the telephone was South African and the underbidder was Nicholas Tzimas of Gosland Collectables in Suffolk.

Toby Gillette, aged 12, from Beckenham in Kent, wrote to Jimmy Savile asking if it would be possible to have a Toby jug made of himself. The jug shows him in an open-neck shirt and green jacket. He was presented with his jug on the programme on March 10.

A second jug was made for the Jimmy Savile Charitable Trust and this was the one sold yesterday.

Auction fever also continued to be the order of the day at Elveden Hall, near Thetford, where Christie's secured more than £2m for furniture, textiles and carpets in the second day of its four day house contents sale on behalf of Lord Iveagh.

Carpets were the main attraction. The American trade had descended in a mob to compete for them. The carpets had been bought by the first Lord Iveagh at about 1900, largely from Liberty's and Harvey Nichols.

A large Ushak carpet that Christie's had valued at between £1,000 and £2,000 was bid to £48,600 because a label was attached to it that said: "Harvey Nichols 1894".

Trial judge stands down

The judge in what had been expected to be the United Kingdom's biggest terrorist trial yesterday discharged himself from the case at Belfast Crown Court.

Mr Justice MacDermott said that prosecution comments about a police spy, Raymond Gilmore, aged 24, could not be backed up by admissible evidence. Mr Gilmore has implicated 39 Londonderry people in 186 terrorist charges, including murder.

Opening the trial on Monday counsel for the prosecution had referred to Mr Gilmore's information to the police as being "reliable and accurate", and claimed that his evidence in the trial would be likewise.

This view, the judge said, "cannot be sustained by admissible evidence."

"If the case had been heard by a jury I would have discharged that jury and recommended with a fresh jury."

The judge said the primary issue in the case was "the creditworthiness of Gilmore". The defence made the application for him to discharge himself. It had claimed that the Crown view of the quality of Mr Gilmore's information to the police was unwarranted and was injurious to its case.

He ordered that the trial should take place before a different judge next Tuesday.

Judges split over test of tougher parole

By Frances Gibb

Legal Affairs Correspondent

The Home Secretary's tougher parole policy for certain life sentence prisoners, such as drug traffickers and other violent offenders, is unlawful, a High Court judge ruled yesterday.

Giving judgment in a test challenge to the new policy brought by four prisoners, Mr Justice Forbes said the policy required parliamentary powers which the Home Secretary does not have.

However, the legality of the policy was strongly endorsed, by the other High Court judges hearing the case. Lord Justice Parker, who dismissed the argument against it on all grounds. As a result of the two judges failing to agree, it now goes to the Court of Appeal.

Mr Justice Forbes, himself a former member of the Parole Board and a vice-chairman, said the policy brought in last December was unlawful because it introduced certain categories of prisoners, convicted of the murder of police or prison officers, of terrorist murders, sexual or sadistic murders, or murders through armed robbery, must now serve a minimum 20-year sentence.

The judge added that the Home Secretary had failed to consult the Parole Board after the new policy was announced. "This seems to me to amount to a defect in the decision-making process which is so fundamental as to render that decision invalid."

Lord Justice Parker said that the Home Secretary was not obliged in law to consult the Parole Board. "It may be that another secretary of state would have consulted the board first. It may even be that it would have been wise to do so; but that is not enough."

Law Report, page 8

Property agency gets new design services chief

By Charles Knivett

Architecture Correspondent

Mr Bryan Jefferson, a past president of the Royal Institute of British Architects, is to be the new director-general of design services at the Property Services Agency, which is responsible for government buildings including defence property and historic monuments.

His appointment will be announced today, ending much speculation over the past two weeks. The appointment, at a salary of £34,250, will start on July 2.

Mr Jefferson is in private practice in Sheffield. His primary responsibility is likely to be to improve design standards, but he will also have direct access to Mr Patrick Jenkins, Secretary of State for the Environment, to advise on policy.

He was the institute's president from 1979 to 1981, and is considered one of its most effective in recent years.

Overseas selling prices: Australia \$22, Belgium 100, Canada 100, Denmark 100, France 100, Germany 100, Greece 100, Hong Kong 100, India 100, Italy 100, Japan 100, New Zealand 100, Norway 100, Portugal 100, Spain 100, Sweden 100, Switzerland 100, Taiwan 100, Thailand 100, USA 100, West Germany 100.

Pick E mis share

The two women who are the victims of a pick-up and drop-off scandal in the High Court are the two women who are the victims of a pick-up and drop-off scandal in the High Court.

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Dick Emery's wife fights mistress for bigger share of £128,000 will

The two women who shared the last years of Dick Emery, the comedian, fought each other in the High Court yesterday over his £128,000 will.

His mistress, the former showgirl Fay Hillier, aged 35, was left the bulk of the estate. However, his wife of 12 years, the actress Josephine Blake, aged 46, who was left only a half share in their £235,000 home, is asking for more.

Her counsel, Mr Hedley Marten, said she claims he was about to return to her when he died. Miss Hillier claims he had already proposed to her and she is fighting his widow's claim for reasonable provision from the estate.

Mr Marten said only £127,754 was left after payment of Mr Emery's numerous debts. It included the house Warren Cottage, in Weybridge, Surrey, where his widow still lives.

Miss Blake became Mr Emery's fifth wife in November 1969 when he was 54. She was a successful actress and singer, aged 32, but sacrificed her

theatre career to devote her time to supporting him in his career and looking after their home, Mr Marten said.

During the marriage he earned more than £100,000 a year and they had a high standard of living. "He was a very generous man and she lacked for nothing", Mr Marten said.

There was a constant movement and instability as he went on world tours. The instability showed in his private life and both women referred to his personal insecurity, Mr Marten said.

Mr Emery had many affairs during the marriage. Once he considered setting up home with a woman in Australia.

In 1979 he began an affair with Miss Hillier. She was married with two children but broke up the marriage — something "he had neither planned nor wanted".

He continued living with his wife while the 18-month affair continued until August 1980 when he bought a flat in St

John's Wood, north-west London and moved in with Miss Hillier, who still lives there.

In October 1980 he went on a tour of Australia and New Zealand alone but asked Miss Hillier to join him and she claims he proposed to her.

After the tour they returned to live at St John's Wood. He went on tour again, telling her to leave the flat. When he returned, in May 1981, they were reconciled until August — then he went back to his wife.

He took Miss Hillier on his next tour and on their return bought a house together at Shepperton.

Mr Marten said: "While pursuing his waterside edyll with Fay, Emery frequently went back home to Warren Cottage unbeknown to her, as well as constantly having telephone contact with his wife".

His wife claimed he asked her not to divorce him and said they discussed a permanent reconciliation. However he died before any conclusion was reached.

In a statement Josephine Blake said she was living on a widow's pension of £18.34 a week and had a bank overdraft of £9,776.

Miss Hillier claimed that before Mr Emery died he dictated a letter to his wife which was never sent, saying he said he would never return to her and asking her to divorce him so that the house could be sold.

Her hearing, expected to last several days, continues.



The Emery triangle: The comedian's wife, Josephine Blake (left); Emery, and his mistress, Fay Hillier.

Unit for adolescents defends treatment

By Nicholas Timmins, Social Services Correspondent

A private centre for disturbed teenagers and young people which has been accused of misusing drugs, depriving young people of their rights and running experimental treatments opened its doors yesterday to rebut the allegations.

The Spyway adolescent unit, near Swanage, Dorset, was opened nine months ago by a group of psychiatrists and psychologists from the St Andrew's private psychiatric hospital in Northampton.

The centre uses controversial but increasingly widespread behavioural modification techniques, in which disturbed and often aggressive young people aged between 14 and 25 have to earn points to qualify for more than basic meals, to watch television, or to go out.

The aim is to encourage and reinforce normal behaviour, leading eventually to integration back into society.

The Children's Legal Centre has written to Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Social Services, asking him to investigate the home.

But Dr Gavin Tennent, Spyway's director, said that the techniques used had been developed from those used at St Andrew's, where he is medical director. They had been exam-

ined in detail by the Health Advisory Service, the Government's advisory body on services for the mentally ill, in 1982.

It's report, completed early last year, had recommended that the National Health Service should set up similar units in each region. Dr Tennent said. The Department of Health, however, had not taken that up, and he and his colleagues had decided to launch the unit, run on secure lines than that at St Andrew's, to provide the treatment programme for slightly less disturbed young people than those at St Andrew's.

The Spyway unit takes up to 26 young people, referred by local authority social service departments, sent privately or sent under sections of the Mental Health Act for compulsory detention, for periods of between six and nine months. It charges between £595 and £742 a week, rates which compare with the cost of public sector provision for disturbed teenagers.

Dr Tennent said that female patients, some of whom were promiscuous, had to consent to taking the contraceptive pill, although not all were on it.

'Flockton Grey' accused denies placing big bets

The businessman accused of organizing a betting coup by running a "ringer" in a race at Leicester two years ago told York Crown Court yesterday that he had never seen the winning horse before it was pictured in the winner's enclosure.

Mr Kenneth Richardson denied having anything to do with several large bets placed on the horse in the Bradford area. Mr Richardson, is alleged to have organized an elaborate fraud, when a three-year-old called Good Hand won in the guise of a two-year-old outsider, falsely named Flockton Grey.

He said that although both horses were once at his stables, the similarity between the two grey geldings never crossed his mind.

He said both horses — Good Hand and an other unnamed grey — had been sent to the stables of the trainer, Mr Stephen Wiles at Flockton, near Wakefield, months before the race, to be sold.

The next he heard of Good Hand was when controversy started over the race. But he said Mr Wiles had told him the other horse which he believed to have been named Flockton Grey was a good runner and he placed "conservative" bets on it totalling £2,000.

Mr Richardson, of Hutton, North Humberside, and his racing manager and a horse box driver all deny conspiracy to defraud. The trial was adjourned until today.

Rates rebel is jailed again

Allister Munro, aged 55, who has been jailed four times for refusing to pay rates was sent to prison for a fifth time yesterday. He told magistrates at Long Ashton, near Bristol, that he would not pay the £683.11 rates due on a property in Portishead, near Bristol, because it belonged to his wife. He was sentenced to 28 days for wilfully refusing to pay the rates.

£7.9m campaign to boost sales of fish

By John Young, Agriculture Correspondent

The Government is to provide £7.9m for a three-year campaign to persuade the British to eat more fish. The money will go to the Sea Fish Industry Authority, representing fishermen, processors and merchants, which will spend a further £6.1m from its own resources to bring the total to £14m.

Mr John MacGregor, Minister of State at the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, said yesterday that the objectives of the campaign included better handling, both on board fishing vessels and in the distribution chain; and increasing public awareness of the value of fish as a food.

The public taste for fish has slumped in recent years. In 1981, average consumption was down to 4.92oz a week, compared with 6.26oz in 1961. Part of that has been because of poor marketing and presentation. But there are particular problems with certain fish, such as the herring, which almost disappeared from the shops because of overfishing. It is now said to be plentiful again.

Racehorses' stabling saved by judge

A High Court judge yesterday made an order which will ensure board and training for 47 racehorses.

They belong to the racing division of Esal (Commodities), which ran into financial difficulties when the Nigerian Government suspended payments in the new year.

The company, which trades mainly in sugar, faces compulsory winding up on a bankers' petition, due to be heard on June 11. Its debts are said to total more than £200m.

Mr Justice Vinelott granted an application by the company which will allow it to make payments out of assets for

God remains 'Our Father' for Kirk

From Ronald Faux, Edinburgh

"Our Mother which art in Heaven" is not a concept the Church of Scotland is prepared to contemplate. Speakers queued up at the Kirk's General Assembly in Edinburgh yesterday to question and object to a report on *The Motherhood of God* that a study group of the Kirk's Women's Guild and Panel on Doctrine took two years to write.

Mrs Anne Hepburn, president of the Guild, presented the report to a clearly sceptical assembly insisting that it had been misrepresented and misunderstood. She said: "Whatever may have appeared in the press, this has not been a discussion on the gender of God."

Mrs Hepburn added that to attribute masculinity or femininity to God was to reduce the transcendent God the Creator to creaturehood and that was plain idolatry. Nobody had suggested the need to depart from calling God Our Father and the group wholeheartedly reaffirmed the traditional way of describing and addressing God. However, she added, the group did find that the Bible spoke of God in startlingly vivid and beautiful analogies drawn from the female experience of life, so that it might be appropriate to describe God as a "motherly figure".

She reported that the main difference within the group had been on whether it was legitimate to move on from describing God in motherly terms to addressing God in such terms. Some felt that the Scripture and the example of Our Lord did not permit this.

Mrs Hepburn concluded: "Most of us have taken the view that Scripture itself provides precedent for the restrained and sensitive use of feminine language both to describe and to address God."

In the subsequent debate one minister wanted to know whether Mrs Hepburn regarded the report as justifying and vindicating her use of "Dear Mother God" at the guild annual meeting and in public worship. Another wanted to know whether it was right that 98 per cent of the women at the guild meeting were enraged by the concept.

Mrs Hepburn handled the ministerial storm calmly. However, her report was received and swiftly pigeonholed. The Rev Norman Melver said he had spent a long time studying the question without coming to any conclusions except that they must continue to call God "Our Father" since there was no Biblical authority for calling God "Our Mother".



Double image: The real Lord Lichfield (on the left), the Queen's photographer cousin, posing alongside his new wax portrait which has been added to exhibits in the Grand Hall at Madame Tussaud's.

Bank fell for gambler's £750,000 forgeries

The Midland Bank was sharply criticized by a judge yesterday for allowing a compulsive gambler to spend £750,000 of his employer's money.

Southwark Crown Court was told that the bank issued cheque books to Ibrahim Wahed, aged 39, a housekeeper and translator, on the account of his millionaire employer, Al-Hassam Al-Hefzy.

Wahed forged a signature that bore no resemblance to that of Mr Al-Hefzy, who had told the bank not to allow Wahed near his account in any circumstances.

Wahed, of Stuart Towers,

Malda Vale, who eventually gave himself up to the police, was jailed for six years after he admitted forgery and obtaining money by deception between October 1983 and January this year.

Judge West-Russell said: "This all defies belief, and to say that the Midland Bank acted irresponsibly is only putting it mildly".

Mr Giles Forrester, for the prosecution, said the bank was well aware that Wahed, who had an account at the same branch, was a compulsive gambler. It has repaid Mr Al-Hefzy.

More day places boost public school numbers

By John O'Leary

The number of pupils at the main independent schools has increased this year for the first time since 1981. Figures published yesterday by the Independent Schools Information Service (Isis) show an increase of 1,000 pupils, due to an expansion of the number of day places as a result of the Government's Assisted Places Scheme.

The number of boarders continued to fall, largely because of a drop in the number of places paid for by local education authorities. Boarding fees at two schools topped £5,500 a year but the average

Pupils at Independent Schools			
	1983	1984	% change
Boys	75,958	73,994	-2.6
Girls	36,942	36,510	-1.2
Day	181,918	182,722	+0.5
Boys	133,288	133,014	-0.2
Girls	237,286	236,716	-0.5
Boarders	189,778	171,958	-9.4
Grand Total	407,684	408,672	+0.25

Survey in January of 1,297 schools.

increase had slowed to 8 per cent.

The total number of pupils in 1,297 schools covered by the annual Isis census, taken in January, had risen to 408,672.

Charity is launched to help hospices

By Richard Dowden

A charity to raise money for running hospices for the terminally ill was launched in London yesterday by the Duchess of Norfolk with the backing of the British Medical Association.

Although no target was set for the appeal the charity, Help the Hospices, hopes to raise £10m annually.

The Duchess of Norfolk, the joint chairman of the new charity, said that her first visit to a hospice four years ago was an amazing revelation and that dying patients could now be free from pain and conscious right up to the moment of death.

There are now about 1,800 hospice beds in Britain of which about 300 are funded by the National Health Service. They cost about £400 a week each to run.

Professor Peter Quilliam, chairman of the association's board of science and education, who is to be the other chairman of the charity, said that setting up the charity was an important step forward in increasing public awareness of support required for the care of the dying.

"The objectives of the trust encapsulate the concern of the BMA, firstly to provide relief care and treatment of the dying, secondly to train the relative professional groups and thirdly to promote research into methods of better care", he said.

The commitment of Professor Quilliam on behalf of the BMA represents an important step forward in accepting the importance and the practical expertise of the hospice movement.

Representatives of the charity have met Mr Kenneth Clarke, Minister for Health, to try to persuade him to alter the social security rules to allow hospices to claim retrospectively for patients who have died in hospices.

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PARLIAMENT May 22 1984

Emergency debate on closure of truck plant

INDUSTRY

There is to be an emergency debate in the Commons tomorrow on the decision to close Leyland's truck-making plant at Bathgate in Scotland and the bus making plant of CH Roe in Leeds.

The request for the debate was made by Mr Peter Shore, chief Opposition spokesman on trade and industry, after Mrs Thatcher, the Prime Minister, and Mr Norman Tebbit, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, had answered questions on the closure. Both had made it clear that they did not lack of investment at Bathgate which had led to its closure, but lack of markets.

Mrs Thatcher said: The Government very much regrets the closure of the Bathgate factory, but British Leyland had kept it going already for some considerable time past the point at which it ceased to be viable.

She was replying to Mr Gavin Strang (Edinburgh East, Lab) who described the closure of the Bathgate factory in two years as industry sabotage.

Spending millions of pounds on social security to families around Bathgate where male unemployment would rise to over 50 per cent instead of investing in modern production facilities would be as criminal and vindictive attack on Scotland's industrial base, he said.

It is an attack (he added) which will be resisted by Leyland workers and the people of Scotland as a whole.

Mr Tebbit, replying to questions, said that Bathgate was a drag on the company's recovery plans.

He also announced that Jaguar Cars was to be sold to the private sector later this year.

Mr Tebbit said: The published results of BL show that in 1983 the company achieved its objective of breaking even at the trading level for the first time since 1978.

Productivity and quality standards within the company have continued to improve markedly.

The House will, I am sure, wish to congratulate the company on these achievements and on the range of new models successfully launched over the past year, including the larger Sherpa vans, the Land-Rover One-Ton, the Maestro, and, most recently, the Montego.

The corporate plan, which the Government has now approved, sets out the basis on which the company's solid progress towards viability and its return to the private sector will be maintained.

A particular problem for BL in this year's plan has been Leyland Trucks, which faces an exceptionally depressed market at home and, particularly, overseas, showing little signs of major improvement in the medium term, and severe over-capacity throughout Europe.

The Government has endorsed the board's plan to continue the Leyland Trucks business, but accepts the need for radical action to reduce costs and adjust to the medium-term prospects for the market.

The company has informed its workforce at its Bathgate plant today of the phased closure of that plant over the next two years.

Leyland Bus too has suffered from a depressed market at home and will also have to reduce its capacity to a level more consistent with market prospects.

The company has today informed its workforce at the Charles H. Roe plant in Leeds of the closure of that plant later this year.

The Government, like the company, greatly regrets these measures, which are however necessary to establish a viable

prospect for the remainder of the commercial vehicles business and the employment in it.

It has been the long established objective of the BL board to return its businesses to the private sector. The House will be aware of the sustained improvement in recent years in the performance of Jaguar Cars.

As a result of this improvement, the BL board are now able to propose as a first step, subject to the approval of the shareholders of BL plc, that Jaguar Cars should be returned to the private sector later this year. It is the board's intention to proceed by means of a public offer for sale of Jaguar. The Government warmly welcomes these plans.

Mr Shore, questioning Mr Tebbit on his statement, said what should have been a welcome statement of progress being made under public ownership to rescue the British motor vehicle industry is yet another disastrous statement of closures affecting that industry.

It is truly remarkable that only a few weeks ago the Secretary of State was announcing the coming to a brief of the Nissan car company which is due to bring 450 jobs in the first two years and he has just announced the closure of 450 jobs at the same time.

When the Labour government rescued the bankrupt BL eight or nine years ago it was to maintain for Britain a British-based and British-owned vehicle industry but it now appears that the commercial side of BL is to shrink to a "virtually negligible size".

The Government speaks of other capacity in Europe but it is not the case that BL has traditionally, through its vehicle industry, been a major employer in the Midlands.

The Prime Minister said there was no failure to invest, but does this decision not follow automatically from the decision to invest in the Cummins diesel engine and the failure to invest in the 211 model truck?

He mentioned 1,800 jobs at Bathgate. That is a large number but it is not the case that there are a multiple of that figure we have to consider if we take account of all the component and other suppliers who will also lose their jobs?

Turning to C. H. Roe Leyland Buses in Leeds, is not the reason that is to close down that home demand for buses has fallen dramatically since the cut in the transport support grant of the last two years?

Regarding the sale of Jaguar, the Secretary of State told the BL that he had achieved its objective of breaking even. Can he tell us what would be the deficit at BL without the profits of Jaguar?

Mr Tebbit: I am sorry that Mr Shore could not find a single word of praise for the efforts of the Leyland workers who have brought the group back into profitability and brought Jaguar to profitability.

At this point there were protests from Labour side at the absence of Mr Tebbit.

Mr Tebbit: I might perhaps help Labour MP's regain their courtesy to realize the Prime Minister has left in order to keep an appointment with the leader of one of the other parties in this House.

Mr Tebbit: Mr Shore cannot distinguish a Nissan car and a Leyland truck and that he does not understand them is in different matters.

I am glad he does begin to understand there had been a fall in the market for trucks outside Europe. In Nigeria alone, a traditional market for Leyland vehicles, sales have fallen from

1,400 in 1978 to less than 300 in 1983. I suppose he wants to blame the British Government for Nigeria's problems.

As for the question about Cummins diesel, it is clear it will be cheaper for BL to buy engines from Cummins than to produce them at Bathgate even after all the investment had been made.

He referred to the loss of component jobs, but can he not understand that the biggest value of components sold is not dependent on whether or not Leyland put money into Bathgate but on how many trucks they sell?

Of course there would be no difference in the number of trucks sold whether Bathgate was there or not. Bathgate is a drag on the company's recovery plans as they are now seen.

He raised the question of public sector subsidy to the bus industry. People are buying more cars than ever before and therefore there is less demand for buses than ever before and over £1 billion has been lost through various schemes into the transport subsidies for buses and allied vehicles.

Mr Barry Henderson (North-East Fife, C) will be sure that BL will be unable to look out any other potential vehicle builder who might wish to use that plant?

Mr Tebbit: Of course we would welcome it if it is possible for someone to take over the Bathgate plant. Nature, it will do all we can to that end but the prospects are not good, although he will remember Mr Shore was steering about the prospects of saving jobs in the company until private enterprise came in to rescue those who had been let down by the public sector.

Mr Tom Dallyell (Linlithgow, Lab): Bathgate has the largest single concentration of machine tools under any single roof, not only in the UK but in the whole of Europe.

Mr Derek Fatchett (Leeds, Central, Lab): The statement gives the lie to the Government view that economic recovery is on the way. If the workers had heard the minister they would have heard him say the word "regret". It is about time he stopped talking about regret and started talking about hope for people on the scrap heap.

Mr Tebbit: On mature consideration, he will understand that there is no need to be so hysterical in putting men and women out of work. There is no good social reason, no good reason at all to put men and women out of work unnecessarily. That is why I and my colleagues regret what has happened.

Mr Paddy Ashdown (Yeovil, L): Many people will look at these tragic closures as clear evidence that if there is an economic recovery at all, it is too slow and weak to reveal the decline of the industrial base under this Government.

Mr Tebbit: He may have missed the fact that there has been a worldwide fall in demand for trucks.

Mr Anthony Beaumont-Dark (Birmingham, Selby, C): British Leyland will be selling the cars from its plants and we do not want to reveal the side of the business to what is to happen to the capital raised?

If BL is left on its own, creditors may feel the BL is not as viable as it was with Jaguar and we do not want the whole of the sale to be endangered for a once-for-all capital profit.

The future of the whole group must not be endangered by one sale.

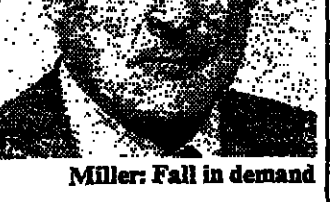
Mr Tebbit: We are satisfied that nothing in the sale of Jaguar reveals the group. Rather the reverse.

I do not think those advancing credit have been doing so solely on the basis of Jaguar.

Mr Robin Maxwell-Hyslop (Tiverton, C) said the then Sir Donald



Dallyell: Concentration of tools.



Miller: Fall in demand.

producing trucks for which there is no market that can save the business. They are alone in that belief.

Mr Hilary Miller (Bromsgrove, C) will confirm that the Government and BL board are making great efforts to keep the trucks division going in circumstances where there is such a sharp fall in demand and that the action recommended by Labour would be likely to lead to the downfall of the whole group by weakening successful elements by action needed for development to prop up parts of the enterprise which have no future in the market.

Mr Tebbit: Mr Miller is right. Increased investment at Bathgate, unless accompanied by massive closures of every other plant in BL, would result in increased losses and those would inevitably mean increased job losses before long.

Mr Bruce Milne (Glasgow, Govan, Lab): At the time of the last reorganization of Leyland trucks, a specific assurance was given about Bathgate. Mr Tebbit's statement will be met with a deep sense of betrayal which will be widely shared.

It was all the more nauseating because only recently Government ministers attending the Scottish Conservative Party conference had said how well the Scottish economy had done.

Mr Kenneth Lewis (Stamford and Spalding, C) asked if the Government was giving up the idea of nationalizing Leyland since it was the very successful parts.

Mr Tebbit: I do not think so. BL is behaving in exactly the same way as any private sector company if it was short of cash.

Mr Douglas Hayle (Warrington North, Lab): What are the imports of commercial vehicles now compared with the market in Britain?

Mr Tebbit: The market in Britain has fallen by something like 45 per cent from peak to trough. Leyland lost its market share very severely until last year when it crept up a little and continues to do so at the moment.

Mr Nicholas Winterton (Macclesfield, C): Why is the UK bus and commercial vehicles companies losing out to international trade, particularly to the Japanese? Will Mr Tebbit carry out an inquiry to find out why?

Mr Tebbit said Britain and other countries had had a pretty thin time during the world recession. An inquiry was not needed. The Japanese were more successful because they made the vehicles which people wanted at the right price and delivered them on time.

Mr Donald Dewar, chief Opposition spokesman, said that there had been mysterious rumours in newspapers stating that Bathgate was to be saved by the personal intervention of the Prime Minister.

The present catalogue of disaster (he added) has whipped hope but of Scotland and it is the most rank hypocrisy to talk of recovery of the Scottish economy.

Mr Tebbit said Mr Dewar should not expect him to know when rumours are circulated. They did not come from anyone within the Government.

Mr Shore, applying for the emergency debate, said that in both of the areas involved unemployment was already high. The closures at Bathgate and Leeds would mean the loss, respectively, of some 1,800 and over 400 further jobs. Linked with the unemployment that would be created by these closures there would be ancillary and supporting job losses.

Stokes had told a select committee 10 years ago that British Leyland should not go to Bathgate.

Mr Tebbit said a great deal of the select committee's evidence was without pre-conditions, that could be taken place on a neutral ground.

Mr John Tawaens (Bridlington, C) said there were many miners who would like to return to work but who were deterred by mass pickets which were in breach of the TUC's recommendation.

It is time the National Coal Board showed the same courage and resolution as Mr Tebbit. Should the Government be brought in to protect miners from violent mass picketing?

Mrs Thatcher: The question of resort to the civil law is a matter for the NCB to judge. Violence and intimidation are covered by the criminal law and that is a matter for the police to deal with.

It is ironic that trade unions were formed to protect their members from threats of intimidation yet those who could stop these attempts at intimidation fail to do so.

In the meantime, the police are continuing to exercise their powers in regard to picketing.

Mr Terry Fields (Liverpool, Broadgreen, Lab): How does Mrs Thatcher feel, having attempted to display to the world a caring mother's face prepared to travel anywhere in the interests of her children, that she is now faced with the sight of miners' children and their families seeking sustenance from soup kitchens and charity?

Millions of people feel repugnance at Mrs Thatcher's attempts to starve miners back to work. Is she not ashamed of herself as a disgrace to the cause of motherhood? Will she consider joining a closed monastery or as soon as possible to repent on her sins and reflect on her own humanity?

Mrs Thatcher: At present some 43

Thatcher urges more miners to go back

COAL DISPUTE

Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the Prime Minister, criticized NUM leaders for failing to condemn intimidation working miners and their families.

She made clear during angry exchanges in the Commons on the dispute that tomorrow (Wednesday) meeting between the NUM and the National Coal Board at Hobart House was one of a regular series to discuss what she described as ordinary things.

Should there (she added) be a meeting to discuss the dispute without pre-conditions, that could be taken place on a neutral ground.

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are working normally and 14 partially, in Nottinghamshire, Leicestershire, Lancashire, Staffordshire and Derbyshire.

More miners are working now than at the start of the strike. These people are being paid good wages, and their families are flourishing. I trust others will follow their example.

Mr Cranley Oastler (Woking, C): Has Mrs Thatcher noticed how many of this man's family's associates in this country and overseas are avowed communists dedicated to doing all the damage they possibly can to our society and our economy?

The country should judge the NUM's conduct of the strike and their reluctance to speak to the NCB (Noisy interruptions from the Labour benches).

Mrs Thatcher: There will be a regular six monthly meeting between the NUM and the NCB tomorrow (Wednesday) at Hobart House. It is highly regrettable that those at the top of the NUM have not condemned the intimidation.

Mr Alexander Eadie (Midlothian, Lab): Why did Mrs Thatcher encourage Mr Ian MacGregor, chairman of the NCB, to veto the meeting that was proposed to be held tomorrow? Mr MacGregor said it had to be at Hobart House or nowhere else when it is well known that the miners are not prepared to cross picket lines. (loud Conservative laughter)

The proposed meeting on pensions tomorrow had the venue changed on the basis that it had to be held in case there was trouble. Is there any sanity in this? Downing Street or Hobart House?

Mrs Thatcher: There are some 50,000 miners working - working for themselves and the future of the industry and their families.

The meeting tomorrow is one of a regular six monthly series of meetings and I assure Mr Eadie that Hobart House is not empty. There are a lot of people working there.

The meeting will take place at Hobart House to discuss the ordinary things and the chairman of the NCB will be there ready to take the meeting.

Should there be a meeting to discuss the dispute it would be a different meeting from this one in the regular six monthly series, a meeting to discuss the dispute without pre-conditions. It could take place on neutral ground.

Nato has no plans of which the House of Commons is unaware for the deployment of further weapons systems. Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for Defence, said during Commons questions.

He added that it was certain that the USSR, possessing the weapons to replace some of its forward deployed nuclear weapons, would have done so, regardless of what the West had done.

He was replying to Mr Dennis Davies, Opposition spokesman on defence and disarmament, who in saying that since part of the Government's case was that missiles had had to be deployed because of or in retaliation against SS20s, with the Soviet Union deploying their missiles in retaliation, asked the minister to confirm that neither Nato nor the Government intended to deploy more missiles of any kind in retaliation against Soviet missiles.

Mr Sydney Chapman (Chipping Barnet, C) asked for the latest estimate of the numbers of USSR SS4, SS5 and SS20 missiles targeted on western Europe.

Mr Heseltine said that there were now 243 SS20s and 224 SS4s targeted on western Europe and the SS5s had been withdrawn. Each SS20 missile had three warheads.

Mr Chapman asked for confirmation that Nato would withdraw any nuclear weapons from Europe as would be deployed in the ground launched cruise and Pershing II programme and that there had been no equivalent response from the USSR.

Mr Heseltine: There has been a relentless increase in the number of SS20s deployed facing east and west. The Nato alliance since 1980 has taken decisions to remove 2,500 nuclear warheads from Europe, bringing the total at the end of that period down to the lowest in 20 years.

Mr Gavin Strang (Edinburgh East, Lab): Is there any indication and deployment of additional nuclear weapons by the Soviet Union and the United States are both to be deployed.

Commentary

Geoffrey Smith

The perplexing thing about Mr James Prior's radio interview, why he said it, is easy to see. It is the simple truth, he spoke was the simple truth. It probably is about time that a fresh person was brought in to run Northern Ireland, although it would seem to be appropriate to wait until the autumn before making the change.

He probably has done about as much there as he is going to do - though at this point he appears to have been referring to the security problems of Northern Ireland, not the possibility of a new political initiative. If this does turn out to be his last job in government, he almost certainly will not be one of those who get frightfully upset about things to do.

Yes, it is refreshing, though it may be that a minister should speak his mind so openly, it was still a pity that he did so. The obvious conclusion for anyone to draw is that Mr Prior has been thwarted by Mrs Thatcher, that he would like to make a more positive response - to the Northern Ireland Forum report that he is prepared to endorse.

Such an interpretation would in fact be mistaken. Mr Prior has been careful not to get out of step with the Prime Minister on this issue, and the point has not been reached where it would be necessary for him to seek higher approval for an initiative. But the danger is that this is the chairman of the Northern Ireland Forum, the Irish Republic, and the Irish Republic.

Right to test the waters

I am not suggesting that Mr Prior's interview was a prepared reasonable prospect for a political settlement. I do not believe that the Forum report has provided a new chance, though it will be right for Mr Prior to test the waters by consulting the various Northern Irish parties. But it will be unfortunate if a myth develops that a settlement might have been obtained if the Prime Minister had been prepared to give stronger backing to her Secretary of State.

Mr Prior's remarks might also be interpreted as an attempt to press Mrs Thatcher into offering him another senior post. I very much doubt if that was his purpose. They have been getting on much better than in the past, and Mr Prior can hardly have wished to repeat his experience before going to Northern Ireland, in 1981 when he did indeed try to hold a pistol to his head - only to find it was empty.

Mr Prior has, however, discovered that such an exercise is bluff is a dangerous operation.

Yet the very fact that the interview could be interpreted as a challenge to Mrs Thatcher might make her reluctant to offer him another post, or at least another one that he could be expected to accept. If that were to be the outcome it would be the saddest feature of the whole episode.

A politician of courage

Mr Prior is a politician of courage, humanity and a sense of public responsibility whose presence gives the Government a balance and a range of appeal that it badly needs. This is especially important at a time when it is being accused increasingly of complacency and insensitivity.

A Cabinet that represented only one tendency within the party might have greater doctrinal coherence, but it would not for very long retain the degree of public support that it requires. Mr Prior, Mr Walker and Mr Heseltine are the only regular members of the Cabinet now left in the Cabinet, and neither has over the years fought harder or with more sincerity for the views which he holds than Mr Prior.

The only doubt must be whether he still has the appetite for high office. It is rarely a good idea for senior ministers to stay on when they no longer have the inner urge for such a wearing and competitive life. But that would be the only ground on which it would be wise for the Prime Minister to allow him to go. If the time is approaching for him to retire from office the Government will be the poorer without him.

Parliament today

Commons (2.30p): Emergency debate on closure of BL's plant at Bathgate. Debate on Opposition motion on cruise missiles. Greater London Council (Motions No 2) Bill, second reading, Lords (7.30p): Debate on judicial proceedings in Zimbabwe on British trade with developing countries and on prisoners in Northern Ireland.

Moves to combat heroin abuse

HOUSE OF LORDS

As many as 50,000 people in this country, many thousands of them young schoolchildren, were now regular users of heroin Lord Ennals (Lab) said during question time in the House of Lords when Lord Elton, Under Secretary of State, Home Office, was asked about Government action to meet the problem.

Lord Elton said: The Government fully shares the widespread concern about the misuse of heroin and is determined to take all possible steps to combat it. The Home Secretary, Lord Britton, and the Secretary of State for Social Services, Mr Norman Fowler, have recently announced a number of measures to strengthen their fight against drug misuse generally and the matter will continue to receive very close attention.

Lady Fisher of Rednal (Lab): Might there not be a need for Foreign

Office intervention at a very high level to have discussions with the Pakistan Government in an effort to stamp out the export of this vile drug?

Lord Elton: We do believe it is appropriate to help governments concerned in the efforts that they are making already to fight this dangerous, damaging and illicit trade.

Lady Faithfull (C): The problem lies with the pushers. It is quite easy to get heroin. Could he say what particular action the police are taking over pushers?

Lord Elton: Wherever possible they are identifying and arresting them. The number of persons found guilty or cautioned for drug offences in 1983 include: for unlawful supply - 1,110, that is 110 more than previous year; for possession with intent to supply - 823, over 100 more than the previous year and for unlawful possession of drugs other than cannabis - 3,119.

Lord Taylor of Blackburn (Lab):

What liaison is there between government departments, especially the Department of Education and Science, in regard to making teachers more aware of the high incidence of schoolchildren now taking these drugs?

Lord Elton: There is close consultation between departments. The prevention of drug abuse, will be published next month. It has been a truly dramatic and horrendous increase in illegal use of heroin in this country. It has been estimated that as many as 50,000 people are now regular heroin users, including many thousands of schoolchildren.

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Levene role defended

DEFENCE

The position of Mr Peter Levene as a Government advisor on defence while he was also deputy chairman of the Defence Manufacturers Association was criticized by two Labour MPs during defence questions in the Commons.

Mr Richard Douglas (Dunfermline West, Lab) said that for Mr Levene to be a member of the National Defence Industries Council put him in a position of conflict. He gave advice to Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for Defence, and at the same time had direct involvement with the armaments industry.

Mr Geoffrey Partle, Minister of State for Defence Procurement, Mr Levene is not a member of the council, attended the last meeting at the special invitation of Mr Heseltine.

It is clearly laid down that there would be no conflict of interest between his commercial interests and any services and studies he might carry out.

Mr Dennis Davies, Opposition spokesman on defence and disarmament: The small defence contractor has expressed grave disquiet that Mr Levene might well have access to costs and prices on defence which would put them at a disadvantage in respect of tendering.

It is not quite scandalous and immoral that this man, who is a member of the defence industry, should be a major defence contractor, and at the same time be able to go back in less than six months with all that information in his head and sue it for the benefit of his own company?

Mr Partle: That is a wholly unwarranted slur on Mr Levene. Far from being a defence contractor, Mr Levene happens to be deputy chairman of the Defence Manufacturers Association which is the trade body of the small companies to whom he is referring.

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Howe accuses Labour of 'rudderless inconsistency' in EEC poll campaign



Geoffrey Howe

Accusing the Labour party of "rudderless inconsistency" in its European election campaign, Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, said yesterday that Mr Neil Kinnock had made it clear that the party still stood by its commitment to leave the European Economic Community if its conditions could not be met.

At the Conservative Party election press conference in London, Sir Geoffrey and Mr John Gummer, chairman of the party, referred to the "credibility gap" created by Labour's new found "Europeanism".

"We should be told just how many Labour candidates in this election are in favour of continued membership of the European Community and of a directly-elected Parliament to which they are seeking election," Sir Geoffrey said.

He said that the idea of drawing up a new Treaty of Rome had secured no support from Europe whatsoever. "It is plain that the camouflage is already falling apart," he said.

"Labour has abandoned what was paraded as a massive contribution to the debate on Europe's future."

"It shows the contrast between Labour's rudderless inconsistency and the government's plain, sustained argument in support of British interests and European interests, as they work together."

The Foreign Secretary echoed Mrs Margaret Thatcher's words about the need for a strong voice and strong leadership in Europe - offered by the Conservatives.

"The Labour Party wants a weak and ineffective Europe, if indeed they want to stay in Europe at all. They offer policies on defence and security which the electorate has already rejected."

"The Liberal and SDP parties want a weak, compliant Britain. They are offering a range of policies which, if the electorate ever found out about them, they would surely reject with equal emphasis," Sir Geoffrey said.

The Liberal-SDP Alliance, which began its campaign for the European elections a week before the other main parties, yesterday turned its fire on the Conservative and Labour manifestos and defended itself against charges of "Euro-fanaticism".

Mrs Shirley Williams, the SDP president, described the Labour document as a "breath-taking con-trick" because on the one hand it called on the EEC member states to work together to pull Europe out of the slump, and on the other it made clear that Labour was still standing on the basis on which it fought the 1983 general election, when it committed the party to withdrawal.

"The Labour Party's manifesto stands on its head the whole time," Mrs Williams said. The electorate was entitled to say to Labour: "Are you in or are you out?" because so far it had not given a straight answer.

Mr David Steel, the Liberal leader, said that the title of the Conservative manifesto - The Strong Voice in Europe - summed up the way Mrs Thatcher had dealt with the Community. What was required was not a voice but a policy.

In contrast to the Conservatives, the Alliance was putting forward a policy for Britain in Europe which would enable the Community to compete far more effectively.

Mr Steel said there was a saying that if a foreigner did not understand one just shouted louder. That seemed to be Mrs Thatcher's method of dealing with Europe; it did not work, and had not worked for Britain.

The Liberal leader said that the Alliance's positive attitude to Europe strengthened its position when it criticized aspects of Community policy.

Dr David Owen, the SDP leader, said that the Portsmouth South by-election, which the Government has chosen to hold on the same day as the European elections, was a top priority for the Alliance.

Campaign for Europe: 3

Wider arena for Ulster parties

In the third of four articles on the forthcoming European elections, RICHARD FORD in Belfast analyses the struggle for votes in the three Northern Ireland constituencies.



Richard Ford

At least Northern Ireland is not short of one thing - elections. The fervour with which they are fought and the willingness to turn out for the polls appear not to weary a population who, on June 14, will have gone to the polls four times in three years.

For the pollsters and academics it is an opportunity for up-to-the-minute data on shifts in allegiance within the two communities, though at times civil servants and Northern Ireland Office ministers must wish for fewer contests where parties must forever protect their political flanks from the extremists.

The European poll is a replay of the Assembly and General Elections taking place within one. At the hustings, Europe, the arguments for and against, will generally be a sideshow to the main event.

London and Dublin will be anxiously waiting to see if the Social Democratic and Labour Party can hold off the challenge of Sinn Féin for leadership of the nationalist and Roman Catholic community. Equally fascinating is the contest in the Protestant community to show whether the Official Unionists consolidate their lead over the Democratic Unionists.

There is no shortage of issues for each side to fight over. The New Ireland Forum report, union with Britain and the growing electoral strength of Provisional Sinn Féin, political wing of the provisional IRA, are the targets for both main Unionist candidates, while Mr James Kilfedder is making a crusade of saving the Northern Ireland Assembly, the only plank of his campaign.

The Democratic Unionist Party is committed to withdrawal from Europe which its candidate and sitting MEP Ian Paisley, opposes on economic, constitutional and religious grounds. The party claims that the EEC subsidizes the Irish Republic has helped to decimate parts of Northern Ireland's agriculture and attempts to foist "alien moral standards" on Ulster.

His rival, Mr John Taylor, the Official Unionist's sitting MEP, less vehement in his opposition but it against membership on the present basis.

Agriculture may be the one issue where the merits of

membership are discussed, particularly in the wake of the special deal given to the Republic for the milk superlevy. It has renewed arguments about whether Northern Ireland's agricultural interests are best defended by Britain or the Republic, which they have more in common.

Mr John Hume of the SDLP, the third sitting MEP, is campaigning on a strong pro-EEC ticket, like the Alliance Party, and believes Britain has not pressed the province's interests strongly. Arguing that the province is a net beneficiary of membership he argues that to withdraw would have "disastrous implications."

His main rival, Sinn Féin's Mr Danny Morrison, credited with first uttering the "ballot box and Armalite" approach to power in Ireland, is opposed to Europe but, if elected, would take his seat. The party is committed to a sovereign socialist republic, believing it cannot exist while Irish interests are undermined by stronger member states.

Mr Morrison's strategy is to force the SDLP to debate Britain's presence in Northern Ireland and to concentrate on persuading those who previously voted for Mr Hume to switch to PSF. Having mobilized the Republican vote in recent electoral contests it now seems the real battle is beginning, with both parties anxious to capture new voters and win converts.

Mr Morrison said the election was part of an ongoing process for his party but for the SDLP it was "make or break."

The SDLP must stop Sinn Féin eating further into its vote. So it is of vital importance for the future of the party that Mr Hume keeps the 140,000 votes he got in 1979. Further erosion of the position - Sinn Féin took 42 per cent of the nationalist vote in the general election - could be a harbinger for next year's local government election, when the SDLP fears it may be eclipsed by the provos' political wing.

Mr Paisley, too, has problems. He will want to reverse his party's decline since the high point of 1979, when he got more votes than the other four Unionist candidates together and loudly proclaimed himself "leader of the Protestant people."

Tomorrow: Wales

Peer who forgot to take oath has no regrets

By Tony Samstag

Lord Kadoorie, who was barred from making a speech during Monday night's debate in the Lords on the future of Hong Kong because he had forgotten to take the oath of allegiance to the Queen, declared himself unrepentant yesterday.

Speaking at his suite in the Connaught Hotel, London, the crossbench peer, aged 85, told *The Times*: "Lord Rhodes put forward my views even better than I could have done. It was certainly worthwhile to be there."

The Kadoorie family fortune is founded on merchant banking in Hong Kong, where Lord Kadoorie lives. He had travelled to London from Geneva



Lord Kadoorie

specifically for the debate but unfortunately we missed the fact that one has to take the oath for each session. He had done so in 1981 and 1982, but he had been away last year and had not thought to arrange to take the oath before speaking on Monday night.

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Sir John Betjeman's coffin being carried across moorland for yesterday's church funeral service.

Betjeman buried at his favourite Cornish church

Sir John Betjeman was laid to rest in torrential rain yesterday outside the tiny church where he had worshipped for most of his life.

Mourners were drenched as they struggled several hundred yards to St Endoc's Church, Trebetherick, on the north Cornwall coast.

Sir John died, aged 77, on Saturday at his holiday cottage near St Endoc's golf course, where he was a member.

The course was closed for the day out of respect for the eccentric but lovable Poet Laureate.

The mourners included his widow, his son Paul, his

daughter, Mrs Camilla Lyett-Green, and his long-time companion, Lady Elizabeth Cavendish, a friend for more than 30 years.

The cortege parked on the golf course and the coffin was carried 250 yards to the private church service.

The vicar, the Rev Anthony

Gent, said Sir John was loved by the people of North Cornwall an area on which he based so much poetry.

The congregation of more than one hundred sang Sir John's favourite hymns, "The Church's One Foundation" and "Dear Lord and Father of Mankind".

Rule change sought for foreign husbands

By Pat Healy

Race Relations Correspondent

A campaign to change immigration rules that prevent Asian and other women bringing foreign husbands to Britain was launched in the Commons yesterday with the backing of several Labour MPs and one Conservative.

Miss Clare Short, Labour MP for Birmingham Ladywood, said that the hardship caused by the immigration rules, introduced last year after the European Court of Human Rights found against the British Government, had not been foreseen.

Thousands of women, Asians in particular, were affected. They found themselves separated from their husbands with young children who had never seen their fathers.

She singled out as particularly "evil" the rule requiring a foreign husband or fiancé to prove that the primary purpose of his marriage was not to gain entry to Britain. It was an impossible test, which effectively meant that immigration officials could refuse anyone they wanted to, when ever they wanted.

Mr Trevor Skeet, Conservative MP for North Bedfordshire, agreed that the "primary purpose" rule should be modified, and said that it was time the immigration rules caught up with the changed social conditions in Britain.

Cash if you die. Cash if you don't.

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With Linkplan, Lloyd's Life (the life assurance company founded by the world famous Lloyd's of London) have cleared away much of the confusion about life insurance and investment plans.

Designed for people who don't want to pick through complicated schemes, Linkplan combines the two most-needed types of insurance.

First, Linkplan gives you straightforward life insurance. Bluntly put, if you die, we pay out to your dependants. So they have the security of knowing they'll be looked after financially.

But what about you?

Many ordinary life insurance policies simply take your money and you'll never see any of it!

That's where Linkplan scores.

Because, although primarily designed to provide a lifetime of high-level life cover, your plan does acquire a cash value. This starts to build up after a period of time which depends on your present age, and you can cash it in... totally tax free after 10 years! Naturally, like any such plan, the longer you leave your money in, the greater the value. In the early years, values will not be very high - but after a reasonable period you'll find you have a growing asset. The tables below show you how it works. But for full information, return the coupon.

We'll send you a Personal Illustration showing you how much you're covered for if you die... and how much you could be worth if you want to cash in your policy.

But more than that - we'll offer you the first month's cover for just £1, no matter how much you choose to pay.

HOW THE PLAN WORKS

Linkplan starts off as straightforward life insurance. Your life is immediately covered for a substantial amount, which is guaranteed for a number of years, depending on your present age. In other words, should you die within weeks, we'll pay your dependants the amount shown against the premium you choose - even if you've only paid



A MAN AGED 25...

Wants protection for his wife, but also wants to see some cash from his policy. He puts £20 a month into Linkplan. He's instantly insured for £30,431 (guaranteed for 14 years). After the guarantee period, his life cover increases while his premium stays the same! In fact, at 65, his life cover is £148,819.

In the meantime, his policy is growing in value. He could cash it in at 45 and receive £9,925...and at 65, it's worth £73,570...all tax free!

A MAN AGED 35...

Wants insurance to protect his family, wants added comfort for his retirement too. He puts £30 a month into Linkplan. His guaranteed life cover is £30,335 from day one.

After 12 years, his death benefit increases but his premium stays the same.

At 65, his death benefit is £84,752. If he cashes in the plan at 55, it's worth £14,547...at 65, £37,290. All tax free!



conservative, we also show what happens if the fund grew at 6% each year - less than half the actual rate achieved.

EASY TO START

To start couldn't be simpler. Just tick the amount you wish to pay and complete all the information requested.

Don't worry about a medical. If you're between 18 and 49, your weight and height are satisfactory, and you can say "No" to the 3 questions on the coupon, we guarantee to accept you without one.

Of course you must answer the questions truthfully and honestly, and acceptance of your proposal, if you're not sure whether something is relevant, you should disclose it, otherwise your benefits may be affected.

Then post your application to our Linkplan Administrator at Lloyd's Life, FREEPOST London EC2B 2HS. You don't even need a stamp.

APPLY BEFORE JUNE 5

We'll then prepare you a FREE Personal Illustration showing how much your plan could bring you, based on the amount you wish to pay and your present age.

You'll also receive an offer of insurance. To start your plan, all you do is sign and return the certificate together with your monthly Direct Debiting Mandate.

We promise there will be nothing complicated to fill in. So apply today. Send the coupon - you'll be under no obligation at all. We don't even ask for your signature on the coupon.

And, if you return the coupon by the date shown, you'll be eligible for your first month's cover for only £1. All in all, Linkplan is just right for you.

PERSONAL ILLUSTRATION REQUEST

NO OBLIGATION - NO SIGNATURE - SEND NO MONEY.

SEND BY JUNE 5 1984 AND RECEIVE YOUR FIRST MONTH'S LINKPLAN COVER FOR JUST £1.

YES I'm interested in Linkplan. I've ticked my chosen contribution level and answered the questions. Please send me, without obligation, my information pack and my Personal Illustration showing me how much I could be worth. I understand that no salesman will call on me, and that I am under no obligation. I am returning this coupon before the date shown above. If I accept your offer of insurance, I understand that I will only pay £1 for my first month's contribution, no matter what level I choose.

I wish to contribute each month: £10 ☐ £15 ☐ £20 ☐ £25 ☐ £30 ☐

Please tick 'Yes' or 'No' to these questions.

A. Has either of your parents died under the age of 60, other than by accidental death? YES ☐ NO ☐

B. Do you intend to fly other than as a fare paying passenger, OR do you engage in any hazardous sports or occupation? YES ☐ NO ☐

C. Have you had any medical or surgical attention at any time including treatment for mental or nervous disorders, other than for minor ailments? YES ☐ NO ☐

IF ALL 'NO' BOXES TICKED: Your acceptance is guaranteed without a medical, provided you are under 50 and your height and weight are satisfactory.

IF ONE OR MORE 'YES' BOXES TICKED: No need to worry. Please tell us, on a separate sheet, as much detail as you can. In many cases, that will be sufficient.

although we reserve the right to decline your application.

Height: ft. ____ ins. ____ Weight: st. ____ lbs. ____

Male ☐ Female ☐ Date of Birth: ____/____/____ DAY MONTH YEAR

Broker's name (if any) _____

POST TODAY, WITHOUT A STAMP, TO: Lloyd's Life Linkplan Administrator.

FREEPOST London EC2B 2HS.

Available to UK residents only.

YOUR LIFE COVER				
Monthly Contribution	Male Age	Guaranteed Life Cover	Life cover age 65	12% growth
£10	18	£19,652	£22,365	£131,894
	35	£9,699	£9,699	£27,098
	49	£4,702	£4,331	£5,770
£15	18	£30,105	£34,261	£202,052
	35	£14,858	£14,859	£41,512
	49	£7,205	£6,635	£10,371
£20	18	£40,557	£46,157	£272,205
	35	£20,017	£20,018	£55,925
	49	£9,704	£8,959	£13,972
£25	18	£51,591	£58,617	£342,577
	35	£25,176	£25,177	£70,339
	49	£12,205	£11,242	£17,573
£30	18	£60,182	£69,349	£417,045
	35	£30,335	£30,336	£84,752
	49	£14,706	£13,546	£21,174

The above tables show the guaranteed life cover available under Linkplan. They are based on the assumption that you will pay your premium for the first 10 years of your plan. After this period, your life cover will increase as your plan builds up. The actual life cover available will depend on the amount you wish to pay and your present age. For full information, return the coupon.

YOUR CASH VALUE				
Monthly Contribution	Male Age	Cash Value age 65	12% growth	6% growth
£10	18	£11,309	£67,201	£11,922
	35	£4,301	£11,922	£11,922
	49	£1,263	£2,032	£2,032
£15	18	£17,325	£102,958	£17,325
	35	£6,438	£18,261	£18,261
	49	£1,935	£3,114	£3,114
£20	18	£23,340	£138,700	£23,340
	35	£8,669	£24,606	£24,606
	49	£2,606	£4,191	£4,191
£25	18	£29,070	£171,171	£29,070
	35	£10,904	£30,848	£30,848
	49	£3,278	£5,275	£5,275
£30	18	£34,381	£203,010	£34,381
	35	£13,138	£37,290	£37,290
	49	£3,980	£6,357	£6,357

The above tables show the cash value available under Linkplan. They are based on the assumption that you will pay your premium for the first 10 years of your plan. After this period, your cash value will increase as your plan builds up. The actual cash value available will depend on the amount you wish to pay and your present age. For full information, return the coupon.

Lloyd's Life Assurance Ltd. is the Company formed by Lloyd's of London, probably the most important insurance institutions in the world. The plan referred to in the Lloyd's Life Share Whole Life Plan, and the information contained in this advertisement is based on Lloyd's Life's understanding of current law and inland revenue practice.

Lloyd's Life LINKPLAN

US resigned to long wait for thaw as Russians retreat into isolationism

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington

The White House was suddenly inundated earlier this year with a flood of mail from the Soviet Union. Sacks and sacks of letters arrived from children, students, teachers and workers around the country, all saying more or less the same thing — they wanted peace; the Soviet leadership wanted peace; why, then, didn't the Reagan Administration abandon its aggressively anti-Soviet stance and negotiate genuine arms reductions with Moscow?

This unexpected swelling of the White House postbag coincided with the Administration's own attempt to improve relations with Moscow, beginning with President Reagan's speech on January 16 in which he abandoned his traditional anti-Soviet rhetoric and offered "constructive negotiations" on arms control and other East-West issues.

Suddenly the word détente was back in vogue and the possibility of a US-Soviet summit conference this American election year was being considered seriously.

But in the past three months relations between the two superpowers have plummeted again, possibly to their lowest level since the 1962 Cuban missile crisis.

This month alone has wit-

nessed the Soviet boycott of the Los Angeles Olympics, Moscow's rejection of a West German appeal to resume arms control negotiations with the US, and the warning by Marshal Dmitry Ustinov, the Defence Minister, that the Soviet Union had increased the number of its nuclear submarines operating off the American coast and could strike US targets in eight to 10 minutes.

The tough line the Soviet Union is now taking with the Reagan administration has led to widespread speculation in the US that Moscow is trying to influence the outcome of the November elections, just as it tried to swing the poll against Chancellor Kohl in West Germany's election last year.

"The Russians can't bear the idea of another four years of Ronald Reagan and will do anything they can to prevent his reelection," said one non-governmental specialist on Soviet affairs. "But they are going about it the wrong way — pulling out of the Olympics merely strengthens Reagan's hand."

Soviet experts in the State Department, however, are not convinced that the Kremlin is deliberately trying to meddle in the US elections.

They point to the fact that Mr

Reagan has had to deal with three Soviet leaders — two of them were ailing, and the third is still trying to consolidate his authority within the Politburo. "Everything's been going wrong for them," one senior official said. "The American economy is recovering and the rest of the West is following suit. Nato has defied Soviet threats and gone ahead with the deployment of new missiles. The Russians have been in the international doghouse over Afghanistan and the Korean airliner disaster, and their domestic problems are continuing to get worse."

In these deteriorating circumstances, the Soviet leadership had opted for a three-prong approach in its relations with the United States, the official said. First, there would be no renewal of nuclear arms talks for the foreseeable future; second, they would raise the level of war-scare propaganda, as Marshal Ustinov did this week, in an attempt to unsettle American public opinion; and, third, they would display a qualified willingness to consider American proposals for non-nuclear cooperation, on issues such as the "hot line" or conventional force reductions.

Leading article, page 13

65,000 more locked out in Stuttgart

From Michael Binyon Bonn

Union leaders and employers will meet in Stuttgart tomorrow in an attempt to end the growing strike in the car and engineering industries. Yesterday a further 65,000 workers were made idle when the employers enforced a lockout in factories in the Stuttgart area.

Prospects for a settlement did not look bright, as the positions of both sides remained far apart. The key demand by the metalworkers' union IG Metall for a five-hour cut in the working week is still being opposed by the employers.

The union protested strongly against the lockout, and the West German trade union federation has called for sympathy strikes in the Stuttgart area today. The employers' federation gave a warning yesterday that all such strikes would be illegal and a breach of union members' work contracts.

Strikes in the printing industry also continued yesterday, after many morning newspapers failed to appear or came out in slim editions. About 7,500 workers again walked out in 60 printing plants, as their union's leaders had a new round of talks with the employers.

Fierce controversy has broken out here over remarks to the Social Democrats' congress last weekend by Herr Erwin Ferlemann, the print union's leader. That the printers had deliberately avoided picking up papers that supported the left and the unions.

Herr Heiner Geissler, secretary of the Christian Democratic Party, accused the union of waging a political strike, and said that under the SPD dissociated itself from the remarks. The CDU would bring the issue up in Parliament.

Meanwhile CDU leaders again warned the striking unions that they were endangering social peace.

● COPENHAGEN: Mr Poul Schlüter, Denmark's Conservative Prime Minister, said yesterday that his Government would not intervene to end escalating strike action and worker unrest, which is now creating chaos in the Danish capital and much of surrounding North Zealand and threatens to become nationwide (Christopher Follett writes).

The strike, which has stopped Copenhagen's buses from running for the past 10 days, has spread to encompass mass sympathy action, blocking motorways into the capital and preventing motorists from reaching their work.

Salvador trial tests America's policy

From John Carlin, San Salvador

The long-awaited trial is due to begin today of five former National Guardsmen accused of killing four American churchwomen three and a half years ago.

Investigations by the US Government have concluded that the men are unquestionably guilty. But in a country where members of the armed forces are rarely tried, much less convicted, for murder, the outcome of the trial is being viewed as a barometer of the changes American pressure is supposedly bringing to bear on human rights, the armed forces and the legal system in El Salvador.

A judge's report in December 1983, commissioned by the American State Department, concluded that the five Guardsmen "committed the crime and the evidence of their guilt is overwhelming".

According to the prosecution evidence, the five defendants intercepted the churchwomen, three nuns and one lay missionary, on December 2, 1980 on their way from El Salvador's international airport to San Salvador, suspecting them of being "subversives". Having first changed into civilian clothes, the Guardsmen climbed into the women's van and drove off.

One of the five, Carlos Joaquín Palacios, has already confessed his guilt. He has said that he and his fellow defendants at today's trial were ordered by Sub-Sergeant Luis Colindres, also a defendant, to halt the van, take the women out, sexually abuse them and then execute them. This, according to Palacios, they duly did.

The confession was made in January, 1982 but it has taken until now for the case to come to trial, a source of continuous embarrassment to the Reagan Administration bent on providing ever higher quantities of military assistance to the Salvadoran army.

According to US Government reports, efforts to resolve the case have run up against deep-seated, obstacles and

inertia on the part of the Salvadoran authorities. The State Department report by Federal Judge Harold Tyler implicates the present Minister of Defence — in December, 1980, the head of the National Guard — General Eugenio Vidales Cusano, in a concerted effort by the armed forces to cover up details of the killings.

On January 26, 1982, General Jose Guillermo Garcia, then the Defence Minister, assured the US Embassy for the first time that the Guardsmen would go on trial "within a very few days". His statement came 48 hours before President Reagan was required to certify that El Salvador was making strides in human rights.

In the next two years, Salvadoran and US officials together issued ten more earnest public assurances that the trial was about to begin, often timed to coincide with congressional debates on military aid to El Salvador.

Mr George Shultz, the Secretary of State, strongly criticized El Salvador's judicial system in March last year, saying: "If they don't clean up their act, the support is going to dry up."

But it has not, although when Congress approved in November last year \$64.8m in military aid to El Salvador, it made 30 per cent of that conditional on a verdict in the churchwomen's case.

The trial is expected to be over within 24 hours. Under Salvadoran law the jurors — of whom there are just five — will never hear any witnesses testify and the defence counsel will not meet the defendants until the trial begins. The jurors will reach their verdict on the basis of portions of a written record of the evidence which will be read to them in a marathon session expected to last until night-time.

The prospect of a not guilty verdict — entirely plausible in El Salvador's traditionally bankrupt judicial system — is being viewed with profound nervousness at the US Embassy in San Salvador.

Doarte woot Congress, page 7

But there were warnings that the report could limit religious freedom. Mr Robert Jackson, Conservative MEP for Upper Thames, felt that Parliament had no right to pass judgment on people's beliefs. He quoted Queen Elizabeth I: "We should not make windows into man's soul." That, he suggested, was precisely what Parliament was trying to do.

And Herr Hans-Joachim Seifert, a West German Socialist, had reservations, though he condemned the "flagrant breach of human rights".

He could also send 40 letters a year to, and receive as many from, an approved list of correspondents. The contents were subject to scrutiny. Local newspapers were first permitted in 1980 and were uncensored. Foreign magazines also became available but were sometimes censored.

For most of the last part of his imprisonment Mr Kitson shared a section with a small group of other whites, consisting of single cells with a common eating and reading room and a small games room with a ping-pong table.

He kept his sanity by study. He earned several degrees by correspondence including mathematics and applied mathematics, political science and economics. He started a course in Russian, but it was stopped. "The problems of censoring my Russian essays proved insurmountable," he commented wryly.

By the end, Mr Kitson said, he was allowed one newspaper a day and 30 visits a year by two people at a time, each lasting for three-quarters of an hour, with a maximum of five visits a month.

When he first entered prison, Mr Kitson was assigned to the least privileged category. He was allowed a visitor only once every six months. Over six years he worked his way up to A category. The process is now quicker and privileges have improved.

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Grassroots campaigning: The Rev Jesse Jackson tucking into a West Virginia family breakfast in the Appalachian mining town of Logan, while his fellow Democratic presidential contender, Senator Gary Hart (right) sits in a junior computer class at a Los Angeles daycare centre.

MEPs want code to control Moonies

From Ian Murray Strasbourg

Should new religious groups, like the Moonies, come under the jurisdiction of God and conscience or under the harmonizing rule of the EEC?

That was the question which took up more than two hours of the last session of the present Parliament yesterday, as MEPs debated a report by Mr Richard Cottrell calling for a voluntary code for controlling such groups.

Many MEPs said they had been inundated with letters on the issue. Although there was widespread concern about the impact of Moonie-type groups on European society, there was less than unanimity about whether they should be controlled.

The voluntary code would allow an individual to leave a movement unhindered, contact friends and family and enjoy normal freedoms in dealings with the outside world.

Mr Cottrell, Conservative MEP for Bristol, has been studying the Unification Church (the Moonies) and the Children of God for the past two and a half years. "What we are concerned with is the whole sorry chapter of human misery which has resulted from the practice of certain organizations," he said. "It is a miserable catalogue."

"It involves such revolting things as prostitution as a lure for both recruits and money, sexual abuse of children, coercion, mind-bending, brainwashing, the exhortation of recruits from these movements, which have a hungry appetite for money, to break the law at every opportunity."

Sir Fred Catherwood, Conservative MEP for Cambridge-shire and Wellesborough, confessed to having been tricked into writing an article for a Unification Church magazine. Since then he had been contacted by "a lot of very frightened people, trembling from some desperate hidden fear." He said it was time "to turn the spotlight of public opinion on to these fraudulent groups."

But there were warnings that the report could limit religious freedom. Mr Robert Jackson, Conservative MEP for Upper Thames, felt that Parliament had no right to pass judgment on people's beliefs. He quoted Queen Elizabeth I: "We should not make windows into man's soul." That, he suggested, was precisely what Parliament was trying to do.

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Hard times on the prairies

Debts closing in on farmers

From Trevor Fishlock New York

It is a symptom of the way feelings are running in the prairie farming communities of America that a banker has taken to wearing a bulletproof vest.

Last autumn two small-town bankers, who foreclosed on a family farm in the Middle-West state of Minnesota, were killed by the farmer's son. The youth, aged 18, is now starting an 18-year sentence. He came from a region where many farmers are sliding into deep debt or bankruptcy, and bankers are often the focus of the resentment of frustrated and embittered people.

A way of life is changing on the prairies, traditional family farms handed down through generations, the economic backbone of life in many districts, are being squeezed out of existence.

Rural life changing as exodus from land accelerates

Middle-West newspapers are full of farm-sale and foreclosure notices. An increasing number of farmers and their wives, working hard but seeing the debts mount up, are cracking under the strain and seeking the help of mental health clinics.

More than half of America's 2.4 million farmers are in debt. Fifty-six per cent of those on the

books of the Farmers' Home Administration (FHA), the Government lender of last resort for farmers who cannot get money from banks, are behind with their payments, more than twice as many as four years ago.

The number of farm foreclosures is rising steadily. There were 844 in 1982, 1,347 last year, 549 already this year. Farm bankruptcies rose 11 per cent last year. Business in small country towns which depend on a healthy farm economy are closing down as farmers go to the wall. The character of rural life is changing with the exodus from the land, and there are fears that many towns will shrink.

Farmers have been particularly badly hit since 1980. They are the victims of high interest rates, the falling value of farmland in many places, the rising costs of machinery, fertilizers and other supplies and the stabilization or drop in the prices of farm produce.

During the boom years of the 1970s thousands of farmers borrowed heavily to make themselves more productive and competitive. Now that the bubble has burst, they are in trouble.

The Reagan Administration's farm programmes are under heavy fire. Since President Reagan came to office, loans to farmers have risen from \$2.8 billion to more than \$13 billion. Overall, the farm support programmes are worth \$20

billion. This exceeds farm income. Small farmers complain that only the rich and successful are benefiting from the Government's help. A former chief economist at the Department of Agriculture says the farm programme is out of control.

But farming has changed profoundly and the tide is against the smaller farm of 200-300 acres. Most of the production and most of the money is made by a relatively small number of large farms. The leading one per cent of farms produce 30 per cent of all the output and make 60 per cent of the income.

Son lured bankers to the farm and shot them dead

At the other end of the scale there are smallholdings kept going because the farmer's wife has an outside job. It is in the broad middle that many thousands of hard-working, devoted farmers have fallen on hard times and are being forced to quit.

And it was against this background that the dispossessed farmer in Minnesota and his son lured two bankers out to their run-down farm by pretending to be prospective buyers. The boy was so obsessed with guns that he used to sleep with his rifle. He shot the bankers.

South African police raid homes of black activists

From Our Own Correspondent, Johannesburg

Security police raided the homes of many leading members of Azapo, the Azanian People's Organization, in a nationwide operation in the early hours of yesterday morning and confiscated large quantities of documents and books. No one was arrested.

Azapo is the main organization of the Black Consciousness Movement, and encompasses Black Africans, Coloureds and Indians. In contrast to groups associated with the philosophy of the underground African National Congress, it repudiates cooperation with white liberals.

A spokesman at police headquarters in Pretoria described the raids, concentrated in Johannesburg, Durban and Cape Town and the Eastern Cape, as "a routine exercise of investigation" and refused to give any further explanation.

Observers could not recall such a concerted police action against Black Consciousness leaders since the aftermath of the 1976 Soweto riots and the death under interrogation in 1977 of Steve Biko, the

movement's most charismatic leader. Dr Abu-Baker Asvat, whose home in Lenasia, an Indian township near Johannesburg, was among those searched, said: "Just about anybody I know with Azapo connections has been raided." He said the police came to his home at 3.30 am and left after 6 am, taking away 157 books, pamphlets and documents.

Azapo's vice-president in the Cape, Peter Jones, and its Natal regional chairman, Mr Strini Moodley, were among a score of leading figures whose organization said had received unwanted early morning visits from the police. Not only books and pamphlets, but also video machines and typewriters were seized.

Mr Muntu Myeta, Azapo's publicity secretary, whose home was also raided, said: "We view this countrywide search as a form of intimidation and harassment of our membership. We have always operated overtly and we are not going to be intimidated."

New York gets £108,000 bail for Sinn Féin

From Our Own Correspondent, New York

Joe Cahill, a Sinn Féin official and former commander of the Belfast brigade of the provisional IRA, was given bail of \$150,000 (£108,000) by a New York immigration judge yesterday after being arrested for illegally entering the United States. His supporters began to raise the money to free him.

Mr Cahill, who is 64, and lives in Dublin, was arrested in the New York borough of Queens last week as he emerged from a car. He had with him a false Irish passport in the name of James Dowling, which bore a photograph of Mr Cahill wearing a wig. Immigration officers also found a wig in his possession. The passport showed that he had last entered the United States on March 10.

Mr Cahill had been refused entry to the country in 1971 after entering illegally.

Changes to Lisbon Cabinet imminent

From Martha de la Cal, Lisbon

Dr Mario Soares, the Portuguese Prime Minister, has hinted that he may soon reshuffle his Cabinet. He made the admission at a hastily arranged press conference on Monday night intended to dispel rumours about coalition pressures regarding certain ministerial positions.

The Prime Minister admitted that talks were going on between his Socialist Party and the Social Democrats but he described these as "discreet meetings to discuss general government policies but not personalities".

He insisted that the decision who should fill Cabinet posts will rest entirely with him and his Deputy Prime Minister, Senhor Carlos Mota Pinto, a Social Democrat.

Dr Soares also announced that the Government intended to introduce profound structural changes in the economy to prepare Portugal for entry into the EEC next year.

He claimed that the financial situation was now under control making these structural changes possible. Portugal's balance of payments deficit, for example,

Filipino priest cleared of murder

Bascolet (Reuters). — A court in the Philippines dismissed charges yesterday against a Filipino priest accused of the murder of a town mayor and four associates two years ago but refused a defence motion to dismiss charges against an Australian, an Irishman and six lay workers.

Judge Emilio Legaspi said the prosecution had failed to provide evidence against Father Vicente Dangan, aged 40, who went on trial in February.

The trial of Father Brian Gore, from Australia, Father Niall O'Brien from Dublin and the lay workers, all of whom plead not guilty, will resume on May 29.

Earthquake rocks Shanghai

Peking (Reuters). — A powerful earthquake rolled across parts of eastern China and rocked the port city of Shanghai. There were no immediate reports of damage or casualties, but the area is densely populated.

Many people rushed out into the street after buildings swayed but electricity supplies were not interrupted.

South Africa at risk from thirst

Johannesburg — All South Africa's people would die of thirst unless the growth rate of the black population was curbed, Mr Sarel Hayward, Minister of Environmental Affairs and Fisheries, told Parliament in Cape Town (Michael Horsley writes).

"The statistics show that we must drastically cut population growth, whether it is in the black man's nature to do so or not."

Life saver

Santander (Reuters). — A pocket dictionary saved the life of Mr Michael Mummery, a Liverpool tourist here. One of two robbers stealing his luggage attacked him with a knife but the dictionary in his jacket pocket stopped the stab.

Mine bombed

Welkom, South Africa (Reuters). — An explosion believed to have been caused by sabotage ripped through several offices at a gold mine here causing extensive damage but no injuries.

Border threat

Rome (AFP). — Italian customs officers yesterday began an official work-to-rule in support of claims for more staff and bonus payments. Similar action in February led to an enormous three-week "freeze-up" of lorries at the borders.

Drugs warning

Karachi — Pakistan may introduce the death penalty for illegal drugs traders, Mr Mahmood Haroon, the Interior Minister, said.

Boy escapes

Munich (AP). — A 17-year-old Polish boy escaped across the Czechoslovak border to West Germany yesterday but border guards arrested his 18-year-old companion. No shots were fired.

\$220m award

Dhaka (Reuters). — Bangladesh, yielding to trade union demands to avert a strike due to begin today, increased workers' wages by 70 per cent. The award will cost the country about \$220m.

No sex, please

Stockholm (Reuters). Women members of Sweden's ruling Socialist party yesterday called for the establishment of "erotic-free zones" in all work places. They said such zones would be like "no smoking areas" where men would not be allowed to regard women as sex objects.



The women who died: Ira Ford (left), Dorothy Kazel, Maura Clarke and Jean Donovan.

David Kitson tells the story of 20 years in jail

From Michael Horsby Johannesburg

"It's extraordinary. There are so many things to do, so much to take in. The choice is almost more than I can cope with," Mr David Kitson, who until his release on May 11 just over seven months before the end of a 20-year jail term was South Africa's longest-serving white political prisoner, is still savouring the wonder of freedom.

Wearing what looked like prison-issue blue serge trousers and solid black boots, Mr Kitson insisted — when I came to interview him in the Johannesburg home of friends he has been staying with — that we sit out in the sun in the garden, as if this was still a sensory experience of exquisite novelty.

Mr Kitson, a white-haired, bespectacled and a fit 64-year-old, was jailed in December 1964 along with another white, a black and two Indians on a range of sabotage and other

charges. He admits to having been a Communist and a member of the high command of the underground African National Congress (ANC). Remission for political prisoners — or, as the South Africans would say, those convicted of crimes against the security of the State — first became possible about two years ago. It was only on May 10, however, when a warrant came to take him shopping for new clothes, that Mr Kitson knew he was to be set free.

Born in Cape Town of British parents, Mr Kitson has both British and South African nationality and cannot leave South Africa until he has been issued with an exit permit by the authorities here. He expects the formalities to be completed within the next few days and then plans to return to Britain, which he last saw in 1959.

His son Steven and daughter Amanda (named after the black

nationalist slogan meaning "power" live in England with their mother Norma. "I gave my wife a divorce while I was in prison so she could live her own life. She did set up with another man, but it didn't last. Now she is waiting for me," Mr Kitson said quietly.

Mr Kitson can only speak for white prisoners — apartheid rules as rigidly inside prison as outside — but he said conditions "grim and primitive" 20 years ago, had greatly improved, bringing less squalid cells, less bullying by warders and more recreational and study opportunities.

The worst time, he recalled, was when he and a group of other white prisoners in the Pretoria complex spent two years and nine months in the same block as those, nearly all black, who were condemned to hang, while the part of the prison in which they were

normally housed was being rebuilt. "The sheriff would come and tell a man three days before he was to hang. The Death Row prisoners would then start singing African songs, often going on all day and night until the execution," he said. (As many as 100 people are sent to the gallows every year in the Pretoria prison.)

When he first entered prison, Mr Kitson was assigned to the least privileged category. He was allowed a visitor only once every six months. Over six years he worked his way up to A category. The process is now quicker and privileges have improved.

By the end, Mr Kitson said, he was allowed one newspaper a day and 30 visits a year by two people at a time, each lasting for three-quarters of an hour, with a maximum of five visits a month.

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People's Army surrenders to love of insignia

From David Bonavia Peking

China yesterday announced that ranks, medals and orders of merit, abolished in 1965 by Mao Tse-tung, will be reintroduced in the People's Liberation Army.

The National People's Congress, meeting here this week, heard a report by Mr Yang Dezhi, the Chief of the General Staff, in which he also said that conscription in future would be compulsory, though not necessarily universal. The armed forces, numbering about three million, have recently had difficulty in recruiting young men and women of the right calibre.

For two decades military officers have been identified only by their command status for instance, regimental commander. The abolition of formal ranks is believed to have led to loss of morale

Genscher fails to change Kremlin attitude on cruise and Pershing

From Richard Owen
Moscow

Herr Hans Dietrich Genscher, the West German Foreign Minister, emerged empty handed yesterday from talks with President Chernenko, but said the West European dialogue with Russia must continue.

Herr Genscher, who also met Mr Andrei Gromyko, the Soviet Foreign Minister, during two days of Kremlin talks, told a press conference he had received no hints that Moscow was willing to settle for anything less than the withdrawal of Cruise and Pershing 2 missiles from Europe as a pre-condition for the resumption of the Geneva arms talks.

He said Soviet-West European talks could not be a

Sakharov and wife 'both at home'

Dr Sakharov and his wife are both at their home in Gorky, M Yurii Vorontsov, the Soviet Ambassador to France, told M Lionel Jospin, first secretary of the Socialist Party, yesterday (Our Paris Correspondent writes). He had no information suggesting that the Soviet dissident physicist had been taken to hospital, he said.

substitute for Soviet-American contacts, and he had impressed on Mr Chernenko, America's willingness to negotiate.

Herr Genscher said he had raised the case of Dr Andrei Sakharov, the dissident physi-

cist who went on hunger strike in the town of Gorky on May 2. There are reports that Dr Sakharov was taken to hospital from his flat and is being forced. Herr Genscher declined to reveal what he had told Soviet leaders about Western concern for Dr Sakharov or how they had replied, noting that human rights questions were often better dealt with behind the scenes rather than "in the market place".

He said he had asked for Dr Sakharov and his wife, Mrs Yelena Bonner, to be allowed to see the doctors of their choice wherever they wanted, and that his plea for "positive treatment" was in line with EEC policy.

The TASS account of Herr Genscher's meeting with Mr Chernenko made no mention of Dr Sakharov. It emphasized the lack of progress, noting that Herr Genscher had given Natos "well known position" on the missile deployments while Mr Chernenko had re-iterated the Kremlin's stand and outlined Soviet counter measures.

Herr Genscher had a frosty reception on Monday from Mr Gromyko, who accused Western leaders of displaying a false and artificial optimism about East-West relations and declared that the Nato deployment would form a dark chapter in the history of the 1980s.

Sweden leads assault on nuclear weapons

From Christopher Mosey Stockholm

An appeal was launched yesterday by six non-aligned nations on five continents, spearheaded by Sweden's Socialist and disarmament-orientated Government, calling for an immediate halt to the testing and deployment of nuclear weapons.

The plea was in the form of a nine-point "joint declaration" which will be presented to the United Nations.

It was signed by Mr Olaf Palme, the Swedish Prime Minister, Mrs Indira Gandhi of India, President Miguel de la Madrid, Mexico, President Nyerere of Tanzania, the Greek Prime Minister, Mr Andreas Papandreu, and by President Alfons of Argentina.

It was due to have been issued simultaneously in Athens, Dar es Salaam, Mexico City, Delhi, Buenos Aires and Stockholm, but Mr Palme took advantage of different time zones to steal a march on his co-signatories and hold the first press conference in Stockholm, bolstering Sweden's claims to act as a focus for the disarmament movement.

The declaration called on the United States, the Soviet Union, Britain, France and China "to halt all testing, production and deployment of nuclear weapons and their delivery systems, to be immediately followed by substantial reductions in nuclear forces".

Mr Palme admitted that the declaration contained nothing new, but its contents could be the subject of immediate nego-

tiation. "It is possible to achieve concrete results," he said, referring to "a gigantic nuclear overkill capacity".

Mr Palme said the main points of the declaration had been worked out by experts from the six nations concerned at meetings in London, though two countries who were to have signed - Canada and Romania - could not agree on the final text.

Last year another disarmament initiative by Mr Palme, calling for a nuclear weapon-free corridor in Central Europe, met with an unenthusiastic reception in the West, while being applauded by Moscow. But Sweden made a comeback in the disarmament stakes by setting up the Stockholm peace conference and a series of seminars and conferences on nuclear war have been arranged in Sweden this year.



Mr Palme: Stealing a march on the non-aligned

France's Euro-poll Socialists fear huge domestic protest

From Diana Geddes, Paris

Despite desperate attempts by the Socialists to keep the European election campaign centred on European issues, it is clear that the French electorate intends to use the elections to record a massive vote of protest against the Government's domestic policies.

The latest Sofres poll gives the Socialists only 21 per cent of the vote. A further 13 per cent goes to the Communists, who obtained more than 20 per cent in the 1979 European Elections. However, the two main opposition parties, the Gaullist RPR and the UDF, which after much hesitation have formed a single united list under the leadership of Mme Simone Veil, have nothing much to shout about either. The latest poll indicates that they will obtain between 41 per cent of the vote, well below the 50 per cent plus that they had hoped for.

Little groups cause all four main parties to suffer

All four main parties are facing competition from more than a half dozen little groups which have sprung up on the right, left and centre.

The biggest threat comes from Jean-Marie Le Pen's extreme-right National Front. The party is being given 7 per cent in polls, but is itself predicting a score of at least 10 per cent.

The Front has never previously obtained more than 2 per cent in a national poll, but M Le Pen's stridently nationalist, anti-immigrant, law-and-order message is finding an increasing echo among the upper social echelons and some disgruntled middle-class professionals as well as among its more traditional *petit bourgeois* supporters.

Although Mme Veil is consistently voted the most popular of the opposition politicians, there are many on the right who will not vote for her. First, they say, she is too moderate. A member of the centre-right UDF, she sits with the Liberals rather than the Conservatives in the European Parliament. Secondly, as Health Minister under President Giscard d'Estaing, she was responsible for legalizing abortion and thereby

deemed guilty by some of the "murder of thousands of innocent children". And lastly, she is a Jew. A strong anti-Semitic current still runs under the surface of certain sections of French society.

Mme Veil has not been helped by the decision of two of the three main opposition leaders, former President Giscard d'Estaing and M Raymond Barre, to keep their distance from a campaign in which they see no benefits for their long-term presidential hopes. M Jacques Chirac, on the other hand, is campaigning hard for her.

New centre party will capture opposition votes

Some traditional opposition support will go to the new centre party, Entente Radicale et Ecologiste - set up by M Olivier Stirn, former president of the Parti Radical, together with M Francois Doublin, national secretary of the centre-left Mouvement Radical de Gauche (MRG), one of the Socialists' partners in government, and M Brice Lalonde, ecologist candidate for the French presidency in 1981.

The two main ecologist parties, which have finally got together for the first time to form a single "green" list, are not amused by M Lalonde's defection - and have been at pains to point out that they are the official ecologist group. The polls give them 4 per cent of the vote, with a further 4 per cent for the Entente Radicale et Ecologiste.

The Communists, who have always been somewhat antagonistic toward the European Community and who are vehemently opposed to its enlargement, are fighting what for them is a critical campaign on the back of the Government's unpopularity.

The Socialists are clearly floundering. They know they are in for a drubbing at the polls on June 17. But they have no real weapons with which to reply to the attacks from the right and left. All they can do is insist, as M Jospin has done, that five more or five less Socialist MPs in Strasbourg is not going to change President Mitterrand's policies at home by one iota.



David Carter: Boyish-looking killer

No parole for Briton who killed housewife

Pasadena (Reuters) - A jury of seven men and five women recommended that a Briton, David Carter, aged 21, be sentenced to life imprisonment without possibility of parole for the murder of a 51-year-old housewife.

A defence lawyer sat with an arm around the ashen-faced boyish-looking Carter, as he listened to the sentence that means in effect he will spend the rest of his life in a California prison.

Superior Court Judge Gilbert Alston set formal sentencing for July 3, but under state law he cannot change the jury's recommendation.

The defence filed an automatic motion for a new trial, but the prosecutor, Assistant District Attorney, Mr Robert Werner, said he was confident the request would be denied.

Carter, who came to Pasadena with his family from Buxton Derbyshire, was found guilty on May 2 of what Mr Werner described as a grotesque and horrendous murder of a neighbour, Mrs Gloria Black.

Police said her naked body was found in her bedroom with a butcher's knife in her back. She had been strangled with a cord and beaten.

Outside the courtroom, Carter's father, Mr Brian Carter, a chemical engineer, said: "I don't have many emotions left. I still believe my son is innocent".

Duarte promises he will never call in US troops

From Christopher Thomas, Washington

President-elect Jose Napoleon Duarte of El Salvador told congressmen yesterday that he would never ask for American troops to be sent to fight on Salvadorian soil. "It would be immoral to ask for the lives of young Americans," he said.

He was responding to the overriding fear of congressmen opposed to President Reagan's aggressive policies in Central America - that the United States could be drawn into Vietnam-type conflict.

He spent the day on Capitol Hill trying to assuage those fears, especially among congressmen who are reluctant to give new aid that he says could determine his shattered country's survival.

Almost everybody seemed impressed by him. He generally has a good reputation on Capitol Hill and his performance yesterday, all of it in fluent English, appeared to reinforce it. "I am here to ask that you have faith in me," he said. The

acid test of his performance will come in a House of Representatives vote, possibly this week, on an emergency military aid package for El Salvador.

He was repeatedly challenged by congressmen who fear that human rights abuses in El Salvador might be bolstered by continuing large infusions of American money. "I have pledged to my people that I am going to work hard to stop the death squads, to stop the abuses of authority and to stop the cultural violence that is in force in our country."

Señor Duarte is known for his active role in the past against right-wing power centres.

The immediate aim of his four-day visit to the United States, which began on Saturday, is to persuade the House of Representatives to agree to President Reagan's request for \$62m (\$44m) in emergency military aid.

Turks face questioning

From Razi Gardilek, Ankara

The martial law prosecutor here will question each of the 1,260 leading intellectuals who submitted a petition to President Kenan Evren and Parliament's speaker for the restoration of democratic institutions in Turkey, official sources have said.

The file on the petition has been sent by the martial law command here to the military prosecutor's office with instructions for the summons to be sent out for each of those who have signed the text.

The petition demanded an end to tortures and objected to the continues enforcement of restrictions on freedoms of expression

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Muslims driven to retaliation after years of feeling guilty

From Kuldip Nayar, Delhi

Both Maharashtra and Punjab are in the midst of a fresh spurt of violence. Seven people were stabbed to death in Maharashtra yesterday, raising the total of dead to 132 in the past five days. In Punjab 12 people were killed and 22 injured in various shoot-outs and bomb blasts.

Official sources in Bombay said arson, rioting and looting continued in different parts of the city. They confirmed that police opened fire in about 10 places on Monday night to quell violence.

Clashes between Hindus and Muslims and mob violence have been reported from Andheri in north-west Bombay. The curfew was relaxed however, in riot-stricken Bhiwandi, though the army is patrolling the streets.

Officials said that as many as 2,692 people have been arrested so far in Maharashtra, Bombay accounting for 1,425 of the total. More than 12,000 people have been rendered homeless.

In Punjab those killed yesterday included Assistant Sub-inspector Hardyal Singh of the Punjab police in Jalandhar district and Municipal Commissioner Joginder Nath in Bhatinda district.

The increase in Hindu-Muslim

rioting underlines the Muslim tendency not to take things lying down.

In Bhiwandi, speeches made during the celebration of Shivaji day (Shivaji was a Hindu warrior who defied Aurangzeb, the Mogul Emperor) provoked the local Muslim population to hand down the saffron flag and fly the green flag at the main celebration venue.

The Hindus retaliated not only in Bhiwandi, where the Muslims, being 65 per cent of the population, held their ground, but also in Bombay, where the Hindu population is predominant.

The Indian Government's analysis blames the "ascendancy of orthodox leadership in the minority community" and attributes "Muslim aggressiveness" to "flow of large funds to revivalist Muslim groups from Arab countries and the impact of the pan-Islamic consolidation taking place elsewhere in the Muslim world." But this is only one side of the picture.

The other side is that the Muslims feel insecure. Kept out of the mainstream because of their "past record" and suspicion about their loyalties, they are being driven to a feeling of separatism and desperation.



Mrs Indira Gandhi, the Prime Minister, during a flying visit to the riot-torn town of Bhiwandi, near Bombay.

An aristocrat above party politics

Germans get dream President

From Michael Blayon, Bonn

West Germany today elects as its sixth President since the founding of the federal republic a silver-haired figure who will bring political and moral weight to a largely ceremonial office.

Herr Richard von Weizsäcker, until recently the first Christian Democratic Mayor of West Berlin, appears in many Germans' eyes to be a dream candidate for the office. Cultured, religious, polished, a witty liberal from an aristocratic family of intellectuals, he has wide political experience, especially in forging contacts with East Germany when mayor in Berlin, and has been able to give the impression of standing above party politics.

He has been described as a kind of *gastar* Kaiser for today's society, and is known to want to use his influence to bring

harmony into the increasingly polarized atmosphere of today's politics.

For this reason, he is the first presidential candidate to be unopposed by the main opposition party. The Social Democrats said they would nominate a rival if the CDU's candidate was anyone other than Herr von Weizsäcker.

However the Greens have proposed a 73-year-old woman writer who was active in opposing the Nazis but has lived for the past 25 years mainly in Rome. Frau Luise Rainer has no hope of beating Herr von Weizsäcker, but the Greens hope some Social Democrats and even Free Democrats may vote for her.

The new President will be chosen by a special federal

elective assembly, comprising the 520 members of the Bundestag and an equal number of people nominated by Land Parliaments. These nominated electors, who read like a who's who of German politics, do not have to be members of the Land parliaments and include trade unionists, local business and community leaders and retired or defeated federal politicians.

Herr von Weizsäcker, aged 64, made no secret of his desire to be President, a job for which he was the unsuccessful candidate against Herr Walter Scheel in 1974.

Herr von Weizsäcker will take over on July 1 from President Karl Carstens, who is not seeking reelection after serving the normal five-year term.

Sex training urged on Polish Army

From Roger Boyes, Warsaw

The Polish Army, one of the mainstays of the Warsaw Pact, has been urged to introduce sex education classes for all conscripts to counter a nationwide boom in shotgun weddings.

A political instructor in a military unit, writing in the Army daily *Zolnierz Wolnosc*, points out that there are more than 300,000 abortions a year in Poland, that the number of divorces and unmarried mothers is growing by leaps and bounds and that many couples spring into marriage after an unexpected pregnancy.

As with many military problems, it all boils down to the question of training. "The two years of military service offer a unique opportunity for a young man to catch up on his education in sexual and family life," writes Mr. Krzysztof Pilawski, who first became aware of the problem when he tried to initiate a discussion on "my ideal woman" in his unit.

"The soldiers were ill at ease - it turns out that I was the first political instructor to raise the more intimate aspects of personal life."

The whole project should be prepared and supervised by the Communist Party and the political apparatus within the Army, he says. Military doctors should give briefings on the "structure and functioning of the female body."

Army libraries should subscribe to magazines that deal with sexual problems (not *Playboy*, of course, but strictly non-imperialist publications like *Health*) and take books like *The Art of Love* out of the stores and put them on the bookshelves.

Psychologists would be invited to visit regiments and explain the essential criteria for choosing a wife. After classes, non-commissioned officers could explain the academic content of the lectures in a simpler, more direct fashion in the soldier's clubs (the Warsaw Pact equivalent of NAAFI).

It is not clear what the Roman Catholic Church leadership will make of all this. But Mr. Pilawski says that the classes will also combat the "moral nihilism" of Polish youth as expressed in "new wave" punk bands and serialized stories featuring "free love" in youth magazines. The local priest could hardly object to that.

Opposition in Philippines to boycott House

From David Watts, Manila

Many opposition MPs will not take their seats in the new Philippine Parliament until all outstanding allegations of electoral fraud have been resolved.

According to Mr. Salvador Laurel, who leads the United Nationalist Democratic Organization, a majority of the opposition winners in Manila will boycott the new assembly when it meets for the first time in July. Rural MPs are likely to follow suit.

Mr. Laurel Presented a string of complaints giving details of election abuses at a press conference yesterday and called for the impeachment of the Commission on Elections, which is responsible for the tabulation of the official result. The opposition has called for the annulment of the election in 21 provinces and the disputed results could affect as many as 60 seats in the new assembly.

There were allegations of widespread manipulation of voting in the electoral seat of the Defence Minister, Mr. Juan Ponce Enrile. The press conference was told results were prepared a day in advance.

The latest official results give the New Society Movement 87 seats and 50 for the opposition parties and independents.

The policy clearly involved

Judges disagree on lawfulness of parole policy

Regina v Secretary of State for the Home Department, Ex parte Findlay and Others

Before Lord Justice Parker and Mr Justice Forbes

[Judgment delivered May 22]

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court was unable to agree upon four applications for judicial review that challenged the validity of the policy of the Home Secretary announced in Parliament by way of written answer on November 30, 1983 which he intended to put into immediate effect with regard to the exercise of the discretion vested in him by sections 60 and 61 of the Criminal Justice Act 1967 to release on licence those serving prison sentences, whether determinate or for life. The applications failed and were dismissed, and the matter would proceed to the Court of Appeal.

Mr Stephen Sedley, QC and Mr Edward Fitzgerald for the applicants; Mr Simon D. Brown and Mr John Laws for the Secretary of State.

LORD JUSTICE PARKER said that before reaching his policy decision the secretary of state did not consult the Parole Board as to the wisdom of the policy was to be implemented.

The Criminal Justice Act 1967 provided, by section 59(1) and (3), for the creation of the Parole Board and its duty to advise the secretary of state. Under sections 60(1) and 61(1) the secretary of state was given the power to release on parole determinate-sentence prisoners and a similar power for life-sentence prisoners.

The statutory framework made it clear that neither in the case of determinate sentences nor in the case of life sentences did the secretary of state have any power to release on licence unless recommended to do so by the Parole Board; that there was an additional precondition to the power in the case of life sentences, a consultation with the Lord Chief Justice and, if available, the trial judge, that subject to a minimum period of 12 months all determinate-sentence prisoners became eligible for release on licence after serving a minimum of one third of their sentences; and that life-sentence prisoners were not subject to any minimum period.

Under section 59(6) the secretary of state was entitled to set up local review committees.

In section 35 of the Criminal Justice Act 1972 the secretary of state was permitted to release, without reference to the board, prisoners within certain categories as he might determine after consultation with the board.

The effect was that any person serving over four years required, for release, a positive recommendation of the Parole Board while those serving four years or less could be released on the unanimous recommendation of a local review committee unless the offence involved violence, sex, arson or drug trafficking.

In relation to offences in cases where sentences of five years or more had been passed the effect was that the secretary of state decided whether or not to release after a favourable recommendation of the Parole Board he would not, save in genuinely exceptional circumstances, grant release until the final review before release would otherwise occur.

The four applicants were serving sentences of over five years.

Edward Findlay, serving seven years for armed robbery, imposed in 1981, was eligible for parole in March 1984.

Roy Matthews, serving nine years for drug trafficking, was eligible for parole in April 1984.

Peter Hogen, serving a life sentence for murder during an armed robbery, imposed in 1969, was transferred to an open prison in December 1982, but following the announcement of the Home Secretary's new policy at the Conservative Party Conference in October 1983 he was transferred to a closed prison.

Roy Honeyman, serving a life sentence for murder by stabbing and robbery, imposed in July 1973, had also been returned to a closed prison.

It was alleged that all the applicants had been or would be affected by the operation of the new policy.

The policy was challenged on two grounds.

1 The policy could not stand because the secretary of state was obliged to, but did not, consult with the Parole Board before formulating the policy; what consultation did take place did not cure the initial defect since it was consultation that led merely to implementation of a policy which the board was making the best of a bad job.

2 The policy was unlawful for several reasons even though it might not be vitiated by defect in the decision-making process.

His Lordship said that the legal principles were not in doubt. The sole question was whether the views of the Parole Board were views which the secretary of state was obliged to seek before, and take into account when, formulating the policy.

The secretary of state was, so far as life-sentence prisoners were concerned, not obliged to consult the board before formulating his policy. What indication there was that such matters were for the judiciary.

For prisoners serving determinate sentences, the judiciary were not to the statute brought into the question of parole at all nor was there any consultation with them.

It was thus impossible to suggest that prior consultation with the board was necessary before the Secretary of State could validly form a policy decision.

The policy in relation to determinate sentences was that the secretary of state would, both at the initial and subsequent review stages, consider whether there were or were not in his view compelling reasons to grant parole at an earlier stage. Times the circumstances and the reasons could be infinitely various.

In relation to life-sentence prisoners, the policy was that certain types of murderer could normally expect to serve at least 20 years in custody, that the gravity of the offence might require a still longer period and that other types of murderer could be so serious as to merit no less punishment. Consultation with the judiciary was necessary, and the policy was operated to satisfy the requirement of retribution and deterrence.

The policy clearly involved

consideration of each individual case at an early stage whether the murder was of a specially serious type or not. There was nothing which thwarted the objects of the Act or in any way fettered the secretary of state's discretion, or amounted to a rigid rule. Nor was there rigidity in relation to prisoners serving determinate sentences.

The policy amounted to no more than the giving of more weight to the gravity of the offence and the related requirements of deterrence and retribution as before while leaving open earlier release where the additional weight given was overridden by the existence of exceptional circumstances or compelling reasons.

In the result, the applications had to be dismissed, but it had to be made clear that while the secretary of state was entitled to apply the policy so long as he gave each case his full consideration, it did not follow that a decision to refuse parole despite a recommendation from the Parole Board could never be open to challenge.

MR JUSTICE FORBES said that the 1967 Act made a fundamental change in the operation of the prison system in Britain by its introduction of parole.

The secretary of state clearly had a discretion as to whether to refer any case to the board for advice or not, and a discretion whether he accepted or rejected any recommendation of the board.

From the reports of the Parole Board, certain important features emerged.

Each prisoner was to be regarded as an individual and separate case to whom the same criteria were to be applied as to any other individual prisoner.

2 Each prisoner's performance in prison was monitored so that his individual reaction to his sentence, together with other information relevant to his particular case could be taken into account in deciding whether he should be paroled or not.

3 The particular type of crime for which a prisoner was sentenced was only one of the many matters to be taken into account in deciding whether he should be paroled or not.

4 In the majority of cases, if the board recommended parole, then the Home Secretary would accept that recommendation.

By his policy the Home Secretary introduced categories of criminal whose release on parole was to be governed not by consideration of their cases as individuals but by the types of crimes which had been committed and the lengths of sentences imposed.

From now on, the judge had to ignore as before the incidence of parole in determining sentence but was now faced with the possibility that the Parole Board did not have the same chance of having his case for release fairly considered at the same relative point in his sentence.

Further, the prisoner's legitimate expectation of receiving fair consideration of his case for release at one third of his sentence was, if he was in one of the new categories, entirely frustrated. The prison service would find its task of monitoring the performance of prisoners in these categories a virtually useless exercise, as its intended object of giving the Parole Board the information on which it could decide individual cases, irrespective of the crimes committed, would be eliminated.

And the role of the Parole Board was reduced effectively to consideration of what were, in the light of the policy, compelling reasons. Its role was thus distorted and drastically reduced.

His Lordship concluded therefore that to provide for treatment of prisoners by categories other than those referred to in the statutes was *ultra vires* of the Home Secretary.

By applying the new policy to prisoners already sentenced, that was a contravention of article 11(2) of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights approved by the General Assembly of the United Nations in 1948, since the new policy meant that some prisoners would serve longer sentences than they would have done had the policy not been introduced.

Clearly, the effect of the policy did amount to the imposition of a heavier burden.

Finally, the policy was constitutionally improper in that it impinged upon and distorted the judicial function of consistent sentences.

In this, criminals who deserved in this judge's view of deterrence and retributive factors, the same period of incarceration could be treated differently as to the length of the sentence spent in prison, due now to the secretary of state's view of the deterrent and retributive factors involved.

The consideration of whether there existed exceptional or compelling circumstances of the kind which the legislation because it amounted to the disregard, in the case of category prisoners, of circumstances to which it would be necessary to have regard in the case of other prisoners.

In the case of life-sentence prisoners, if a judge took the view that the appropriate period should be shorter than 20 years, his recommendation could be made in the knowledge that, for the particular prisoner at least, his view of retribution and deterrence was to be disregarded. The policy did not take into account the power of the judge to make a minimum recommendation.

Thus, if the judicial recommendation, fall short of 20 years, the Home Secretary had to disregard either the advice or his policy. His obligation to consult the judiciary before making a recommendation was provided by section 61(1) of the 1967 Act.

If the policy meant what it said, it followed that in such consultation the Home Secretary was in fact indicating that, unless the advice tendered on the retributive and deterrent elements coincided with his policy view, he would disregard it. That amounted to a clear view of discretion which was not saved from unlawfulness by the use of the word "normally" in the announcement.

Therefore, both in its application to determinate and to life-sentence prisoners, the policy was unlawful and could not stand, especially because to implement such a policy would require parliamentary powers which the Home Secretary did not at present have.

Solicitors: B. M. Birnberg & Co, Treasury Solicitor.

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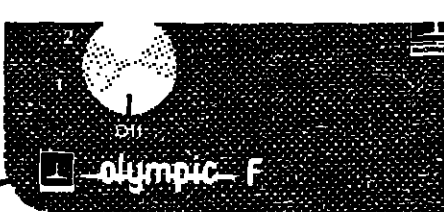
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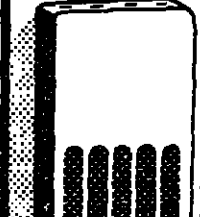
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THE ARTS

Max Wall, 'the greatest clown of his age', tonight appears in his first play for three years, opening in *Serjeant Musgrave's Dance* at the Old Vic: interview by Bryan Appleyard

Wistfully watching the sorrows of humanity

Into the life of Max Wall quite a bit of rain has fallen. So a draughty rehearsal room with a cloudburst pouncing on the glass roof is as good a place as any to reflect on his career. But then again, he hardly needs such effects to make the point. The lined, battered yet still elastic face provides ample testimony to his life and the human condition. Three marriages, three divorces, a bankruptcy and numerous career reversals all seem etched there. Never mind the props, he scarcely even needs to talk.

In fact quite often he does not bother, lapsing instead into a series of manic-depressive grimaces which he strings together like sentences. And the words, when they come, are quite often long quotations from Samuel Beckett - always from the play *Krapp's Last Tape* or the novel *Malone Dies*. Wall once starred triumphantly in the first and now performs two-hour readings from the second.

"I think," he explains, "there's a bit of Beckett that's in me. I think there's some little thing in him that I've got. A wistfulness, a sort of reflection."

It was Beckett who was to blame for Wall sitting in the Old Vic rehearsal room in the first place. A couple of months ago Wall travelled down to Riverside Studios to meet the writer who had been rehearsing the San Quentin Drama Workshop's production of *Waiting for Godot*.

London Weekend Television is making a documentary about the Beckett-Wall affinity, and some still photographs had to be taken. While there he ran into Albert Finney, who offered him the part of the Bargee in *Serjeant Musgrave's Dance* at the Old Vic. Wall resisted, pointing out that he had just recovered from a bout of sciatica which had immobilized him. More of the same and he would be forced to leave Finney with a large hole in his production. But Finney persisted. Wall agreed and the show opens tonight. It is Wall's first play in three years.

If you include his first entry in his father's arms as a two-year-old wearing a kilt this year is his seventy-fourth in show business. It is a career which has included everything, notably a series of plays and one-man shows in the Seventies which resulted in him being labelled the greatest clown of his age. It also included a great deal of acrobatics, dancing and painful-looking funny walks, all of which he now blames for his sciatica.

"Thirty years ago it was all right. When I had a pain I just had an injection and walked back on to the stage. But now getting older means it gets worse. But I want to keep on working as long as I can. I work because I love the business, otherwise I wouldn't bother."

Sitting alone on a stage reading

from Beckett - the poet of paralysis - represents a suitable reversal of those wild music-hall routines. In fact his life as a whole has taken on a Beckettian purity. He lives in a flat in Lee Green - not quite the one room in which his second wife in her farewell note warned him he would end his days, but not far off. From there he contemplates, with little pleasure, the world.

"I spend time staring out of the window and philosophizing. You can't quite see the railway embankment in the summer because of the trees. I listen to Radio 4 quite a lot. I think it's a bit masochistic: every hour the dreadful news, somebody dying, somebody being killed. I feel sorry for the human race and I have no way of expressing what I feel. I can't cry. I haven't cried for years. I feel numb about life, about the unfortunate people, the dreadful killings, the whole thing."

It is perhaps as well not to forget that he is, after all, a funny man. And laughter, while not exactly providing consolation, may be said to do something to balance the equation.

"From what I hear people say I suppose I've done something to make some lives better. Otherwise I'd be taking money under false pretences. Old gentlemen come up to me sometimes and say 'I remember seeing you when I was young'. I get wonderful letters from people and great big mad types

tell me about the love they feel coming out of me..."

It is a vague sort of definition but any more precise analysis of the Wall presence is hard to come by. Many have tried, usually only to give up and recommend people to see him in the flesh. The best you can say is that he seems triumphantly impervious.

Physically and psychologically he suggests a man to whom everything has been done, who has achieved a sort of irreducible minimum, a condition into which further tragedy can only be admitted as comedy. It is at this level that his comedy of the grotesque functions. His distorted walks and grimaces are devoid of any need to charm or soothe. Language, stripped of its functions of communication or social glue, becomes laughable. He dwells obsessively on its oddities.

"Up north some mother will say to me 'Did you notice my daughter had thickened out, Mr Wall?' - that's so funny. 'Shot-up' is another one they use."

"I remember when I lived in Jersey. The woman next door was Irish - her husband was a policeman. I was living there on my own and she said 'I don't know why you're in there by yourself and nobody comes to see you - you should get yourself a housekeeper', and then she went..." He mimes a huge, lascivious wink. "I said no thanks. Two people have actually

been to see me - the lady who runs the mentally handicapped school and the plumber." It was so funny because neither had anything to do with the other... sort of random."

Wall's is a strange, inexplicable vision of the world which, having been translated into all the varieties of popular entertainment, has found a new respectability in the last ten years. His enlistment into the select coterie of actors endorsed by Beckett and the critical recognition of the sheer virtuosity of his comedy have combined to endow him with a peculiar legendary status.

But the two sides of his career - the music-hall star and the angst-ridden Seventies hero - are not real to him. They both just keep him in work. Yet in his "philosophizing" there is perhaps a sign of the itch to define his own significance, to endow his craft with meaning.

"I feel sorry for humanity - though I usually add the line 'and I take the liberty of including myself'. Look at that thing up there" - he points to an old poster advertising a "Hamlet Festival" on the wall of the rehearsal room - "... poor Fay Compton. That lovely woman, a lovely actress, where is she now? That makes me very sad indeed."

"They say there's no such thing as a self-confessed cynic. That's what I think and that's why I love Beckett, especially *Waiting for Godot* - that thing about always waiting."



Photograph of Max Wall by John Voss

Mayfest in Glasgow

Infectious vitality and virtuosity

Glasgow's two-week long Mayfest has expanded considerably in scope in its second year, one result being that it has brought to the city some original and inventive theatre previously unseen in this country.

From a remote mountainous area of Cuba came Teatro Escambray. They make an exuberant entrance, challenging and coaxing the audience out of impassivity with a prologue of Latin-American music which simultaneously establishes both the main attraction and the main defect of their performance: the infectious vitality and technical virtuosity that is counteracted sometimes for the audience by the faint feeling of looking in on a private party.

In the history of *Ramona*, a factory woman whose nomination as "best worker" is questioned because of her uncertain morals, they use a sequence of episodes which draw on extensive stylization. Confrontations are painted in strong, bold colours. Teatro Escambray rely entirely on their delivery to sustain interest and comprehension, and they succeed for the most part with their rhythmic variety of pace, their effective use of space, balancing groups which dissolve and solidify into clear visual images, and their inclusion of a cheerful Latin-American "chorus".

From Germany, Nuremberg's "Pocket Opera" brought an anarchic production of Donizetti's *Lucresia Borgia*. It creates a parody by dwelling unhealthily on a plot which demands a suspension of disbelief, and by evoking the distress all too familiar to those members of the audience acquainted with productions of uncertain merit.

This one is mounted by an eccentric old lady who inhabits a drawing-room littered with grotesque objects and peopled by bizarre servants. The tale of the renaissance poisoner who murders her son, having taken him as a lover, is made to unfold with the appeal of a silent-movie melodrama. It is played out by the servants who, after a rather laboured exposition, become increasingly



Lucresia Borgia, in the anarchic Nuremberg version

macabre - as does the never-ending supply of preposterous instruments of torture, which drip, ooze and issue forth noxious substances throughout. After a succession of magnificent deaths only the old lady is left, sitting complacently on a stage littered with bodies and suffused with mist.

At the centre is the ebullient Elizabeth Kingdon in outrageous eyelashes, exuding a particularly nasty quasi-innocence and detachment. Equally strong is her husband Alfonso (Nandor Tomory), counteracting Klaus Ullrich's suggestively sinuous manservant. Rescued for four musicians, the performance is musically confident enough to

support the spoof. Pocket Opera's mischievous hyperbole greatly appealed to their audience, but I profess scepticism about their stated intention to make opera more "accessible".

The 7:54 Scotland company's Mayfest production is a new version of Robert Tresselt's novel *The Ragged Trousered Philanthropists*, with its account of the struggle of the young house painter, Frank Owen, to impress upon his intransigent workfellows the urgency of socialism.

Archibald Hind's relocation of the action in Scotland, 1908, works well, very rarely giving the impression that the translation is wearing the text. He

successfully compresses the action to provide the plot and pace that develop only slowly in the novel, and lays emphasis on humour to make palatable the drier theoretical episodes, but inevitably loses something of the scope of the novel in so doing. Tresselt's accounts of his workers' home lives are dispensed with rather summarily. Finally, Mayfest provided the rare opportunity to see a fine performance from Whoopi Goldberg, a lithe and irrepressibly alive black Californian. Her humour is intelligent and affectionate: the people she portrays exhibit simple incredulity at life's absurdities.

Sarah Hemming

Concert

Japan Music Pool Purcell Room

Of three works new to Britain by Japanese composers in Monday night's concert, that by Hikaru Hayashi made the most impression on this listener. Its title, *Play III*, puts it in a sequence of chamber works by the Tokyo-born composer, who is in his fifties, and it is an engaging setting for soprano, clarinet and piano of three nature poems in dialect by

Kenji Miyazawa, in which a Japanese style of vocal delivery is matched to tempered western scales.

In the second song, translated as "The Wind-child", the rapid alternation of full and half voice by the singer, Takako Selby-Okamoto, created a tone-picture of explicit character in association with the instrumentalists. They in turn intensified the quiet vocal lament, at times on one note rhythmically subdivided, which characterized a premonition of death in the sad loneliness of the last song.

"Snow on Kurakake Mountain".

The clarinetist, Teruaki Matsushiro, with the hard-working pianist, Keiko Tokunaga, had a more testing contribution in *Pundarik* by Ryohei Hirose. This rhapsodic and sometimes dramatic work, with extensions of clarinet technique into devices such as overblown chords, was said to reflect impressions of an Indian visit. Some influences of Indian ragas might be discerned in the writing, but the long clarinet lines over supporting keyboard

harmony were attractive for their own sake.

It was difficult to know why Yayoi Kitazume should so deny his heritage as to write a blandly Western and backward-looking Sonatina for clarinet and piano. The soprano also sang Ned Rorem's *Last Poems of Wallace Stevens*, in which the often passionate cello playing of Julia Walker was the strongest feature, and ended with an account of Schubert's "Der Hirt auf dem Felsen" that evoked a very blustery day on the heights.

Noël Goodwin

Cannes Film Festival

Tragically topical

relentless escalation of sectarian conflict into violence and bloodshed, is a tragically contemporary theme. The story centres on a personal triangle: an enlightened, cultured, English-educated Hindu Zamindar, his young wife, just discovering sexual emancipation and political awareness, and the Zamindar's lifelong friend, now a militant nationalist.

The staging (mostly concentrated on turn-of-the-century interiors) and the finely wrought performances evoke a world in which the traces of empire are ineradicable, and

tolerance, rationality and goodwill are soon to prove powerless against a dam-burst of long-suppressed resentment.

The intellectual life of aristocratic India seems strangely more sophisticated than that of Seventies America in *The Bostonians*, a loyal adaptation from Henry James, directed by a one-time protégé of Satyajit Ray, James Ivory. Ivory and his collaborators, Ismail Merchant and the writer Ruth Prager Jhabvala, are the cinema's true cosmopolitans, as much at home whether their scene is England (where they are offi-

cially based), India, France, or the United States.

Ruth Jhabvala's screenplay might have been a little more economical and a little less deferential and still effectively have conveyed the tug-of-war for possession of the heroine, Verena, between the new feminists of Boston and old-style love and marriage in the shape of the impetuous lawyer Mr Ransome.

No matter: the flair with which the film visualizes the salons and society of James's world is a constant pleasure, and to the last extra the casting is exemplary. Verena is played with clever hints of ambivalence by a newcomer, Madeleine Potter. The competitors for her soul are Christopher Reeve and Vanessa Redgrave.

David Robinson

Television

Effervescent enmity

When Atlanta, Georgia, went dry in 1886, John Pemberton had the answer: a drink with the basic ingredients of carbonated water, sugar, caramel colouring, phosphoric acid and caffeine - Coca-Cola. Not knowing the real thing, Mr Pemberton sold his title in it for \$2,300. It was sold again in 1919 for \$25m, grew to proportions only a computer could digest and, but for Pepsi Cola, would surely have inherited the earth.

Coca-Cola were litigiously hard on competitors but Pepsi, concocted by a Carolina chemist in 1909, proved an unquenchable effervescent rival. On occasion it seems about to be wiped out but in the depressed Thirties established itself as the friend of the thirsty unemployed. After the war it launched an advertising campaign exploiting affluence and moved itself "from the kitchen into the lounge".

Coke had a good war. No

American serviceman, it decided, should be out of reach of a bottle. The government gave it priority and bottling stations were set up near front lines. The Coke conquering heroes sold the habit wherever they went. The Nazis had appointed Coke's man in Germany head of soft drinks for Europe. He produced Fanta. Postwar, it rejoined the fold.

Both Coke and Pepsi have powerful friends. President Nixon repaid Pepsi's previous kindnesses by handing them Russia, Coke, presumably gulping, had to await Jimmy Carter before making a suitable riposte. He helped with China.

In Central's *Burp! Pepsi v. Coke in the Ice-Cold War* last

night, John Pilger reported on the history, growth, mutual dislike and potential for international machinations of these sugary Titans. He explained how important the White House had been to each. Democratic presidents, it seems, favour Coke; Republicans, with the eccentric exception of Ike, Pepsi. One of the latter's warriors was Senator Joseph McCarthy, who went into action on their behalf when sugar supplies were threatened.

Mr Pilger, normally seen in more harrowing locales, was in a good humour for most of the programme, though he did get to the top men to hurl a few bouncers about company influence in Chile and Guatemala

and about the possible hazards of over-selling the benefits of their products in Third World countries to the detriment of proper nutrition.

You do not get to the top in either company unless you can keep your eye on the ball. For the most part, Mr Pilger was adroitly, though by no means disrespectfully, played but his overall game was well worth watching.

BBC1 was also on the American trail, some weeks after Channel 4 who, on the whole, did better, with *She Married a Yank: The Story of the GI Brides*, a subject of minor historical interest. You have to be in your fifties to remember the fuss; under that, it must amaze. The producer Jonathan Gill did well enough and would have done better had he not been so easily persuaded to digress.

Dennis Hackett

Theatre

Classic character of the English stage

The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie Royal Exchange, Manchester

Timed to a nicety, John Dove's intelligent and hugely enjoyable revival, featuring Eleanor Bron in her prime, suggests serious thoughts that here is another great classic character of the English stage.

Even if this is an adaptation (Jay Presson Allen) of a novel (Muriel Spark), Miss Brodie is a rich and ambiguous enough personality for actresses to

tackle for generations to come: great in her power to inspire, ironic in her fall, formidably posing the perennial problems of a teacher being as complete a person as he or she ought to be, an unforgettable tribute to the teachers (almost all of us remember at least one) who change our lives, and a warning that even the most confident influence does not always foresee its own consequences. Could you ask more from a play?

There is, of course, a great deal more, including a precise evocation of an Edinburgh young ladies' academy in the

1930s. Stephen Doncaster's trucked sets whisk classrooms, terraces for liberated picnics and frosty headmistress's sanctuaries on and off with wonderful speed and Mary Wimbush (too rarely seen in the theatre) represents, without caricature, the balance of authority against a mistress who defends not only Giotto but that "prophet figure like Thomas Carlyle" Adolf Hitler.

And, if ambiguity is the stuff of drama, there is more of it in Sandy of the terrible insight (Valerie Whittington) who, at master (James Aubrey) and, with fatal consequences, damns

her as plain after the first kiss and paints her in Brodie's likeness.

Miss Bron's command and wit in the early scenes fulfil all expectations, flirting masterfully with Hugh Ross's endearing music teacher in weekends on the lake at Cromarty, but always guarding the seeds of self-deception and despair. And, as a former pupil transformed to an ineffably ancient nun whom no worldly things can surprise, Madeleine Christie beautifully frames the story with an irony both sweet and chilling.

Anthony Masters

Never in My Lifetime Soho Poly

I have been waiting for Shirley Gee to take the theatrical plunge ever since reading her fine radio play *Typhoid Mary* (which won the 1978 Giles Cooper Award) and I am disappointed to report that *Never in My Lifetime* is a much less assured piece of work.

The theme is the agony of Belfast, simplified to a two-sided war, and seeking to arouse a sense of horror and futility through a standardized contrast between past-obsessed

Irish nationalists and British boys doing a professional job.

To get this across, Mrs Gee presents two parallel couples from the opposing sides: a pair of Irish girls, and two British soldiers. The fiercely republican Maire (Gayle Runciman) is matched against the dead regimental Charlie (Richard Graham). When the backsliding Tom (Michael Packer) falls for the Brit-fancying Tessie, both are recalled to the life of duty by their partners, with the result that both the soldiers die in an IRA ambush while Charlie's wife and Tessie's mother are left grieving on the sidelines.

Apart from the fact that this neatly-arranged catastrophe

leaves no space for the Orangemen, it also involves the characters in a rigid scenario that gives them small chance to breathe. The wife has to torment her departing soldier with pleas for her unborn child. Charlie has to declare his right to authority against a mistress who defends not only Giotto but that "prophet figure like Thomas Carlyle" Adolf Hitler.

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Irving Wardle

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SPECTRUM

Blunt and other bad bets

Many people, I suppose, suffer blows which seem devastating, crushing and beyond belief. I have had three such blows, the last nearly 20 years ago when I was told by "the authorities" that a former close friend of mine, Anthony Blunt, had confessed to having been a Soviet agent for many years. I found it almost impossible to believe and childishly, felt like telephoning Blunt to ask him if this appalling news was true. But there was no doubt, and why should they wish to play a cruel and meaningless practical joke on me? What might I be stimulated to confess in return? The short answer was: nothing. As "they" knew, I was not a Soviet agent.

I think I first got to know Blunt about a year after I went to Cambridge as an undergraduate. Like many others, I was immediately impressed by his outstanding intellectual abilities, both artistic and mathematical, and by what, for want of a better phrase, I must call his high moral ethical principles. I knew or suspected he was a homosexual, but I saw no reason why this characteristic should conflict with the others mentioned above.

When I refer to his high moral or ethical principles, I mean that he was one of those rare persons, like Leonard Woolf, to whom I might have gone for advice when in doubt about some particular course of action.

Blunt seemed to me a somewhat cold and ascetic figure but with a sense of humour. He was an excellent conversationalist and a habitual party-goer. I don't ever remember having seen him the worse for drink though in later years I heard that he drank a great deal.

I was very ignorant about politics and ideologies in those days, being, so I thought, too busy with my

MY FRIEND THE SPY AND £100



scientific work, sport and social life to have much time for anything else. I remember, very vaguely, once thinking that an article about porcelain by Anthony Blunt in the *Spectator* or the *New Statesman* - I forget which - dragged in Marxism and irrelevant.

I have never kept a diary so when I cast my mind back more than 50 years, little remains except isolated and somewhat trivial episodes. I remember Blunt asking me whether I would lend him £100. It seemed quite a lot of money in 1932. What did he want it for? To buy a painting by someone called Poussin. Blunt said: My father had told me - or my mother said my father believed - that if humanly possible, one should never lend people money as it almost invariably made them

hate you. You should give them the money if you could, and if it could be done without embarrassment. So I gave Blunt £100. Perhaps I shall soon see the Poussin, for the first time, in the Fitzwilliam Museum at Cambridge.

Blunt joined the Security Service during World War II some time after me, and our paths rarely crossed because I was concerned with bombs whereas he, after a brief incubation period, became involved in highly secret work, so secret that the weathers will see that it is not disclosed, even after 30 years.

Blunt inevitably came into contact with a close friend of mine at the top of the Security Service, G. M. Liddell, a brilliant, sensitive and delightful man whose image, I am sorry to say, has become somewhat tarnished, with no justification, by what are nowadays called investigative reporters. If I am sure that anyone was loyal to his or her country, it was Guy Liddell.

The "authorities" knew, of course, that many years before I had been a close friend of Blunt, though we drifted apart in about 1940; and they were therefore interested in anything, anything, I could tell them about him, his friends and acquaintances. So appalled was I by their news, as I am sure they expected, that I felt it essential to help them in every possible way; and this I did within the limits of an imperfect memory. Curiously, perhaps, this did not make me cast doubt on any of those for whom I was already prepared to put my hand in the fire.

You never get over a blow of this sort. What about John, Peter, Thomas and so forth, one asks oneself? The Intelligence Services ask the same questions and, of course, many more. In their world the file is never closed.

"I do not mention anyone alive. Otherwise some unwitting omission might cause offence."



Rothschild, third Baron, Nathaniel Mayer Victor, banker, biologist, creator of the Think Tank, collector of rare books, and now author of his own reminiscences - from a Harold Wilson memo to the secrets of the fruit machine

When I first became head of the Think Tank I visited a number of ministers and said to them, "You now have a new machine: is there anything it can do for you?" (because the Think Tank served the Cabinet and not only the Prime Minister). Sir Alec Home, then Foreign Secretary, said, "You couldn't reduce the amount of paper that comes onto my desk could you?" Mr Heath had his eye on this question, as he has recently said, but we did look a bit into an allied problem, form-filling: we never got very far with it because other things intervened. All I remember now is that the envelopes the Health Service designed for people's medical records were such that any X-rays they had taken could not be fitted into them. I am sure someone has changed that by now, I am equally sure that form-filling is still a national disease and one which is more than ready for surgery.

When I put the same question - how can the Think Tank help you - to the Home Secretary, Reginald Maudling, he replied, "You should take a long hard look at the List of the Great and Good", the catalogue in which are recorded those considered to be suitable or, if not suitable, deserving or desirable for public appointments. I may be wrong, but I thought I detected some resistance on the part of the authorities to the Think Tank studying this subject. Patronage is, as we all now know if we didn't before, a very precious and delicate commodity, and the List of the Great and Good is jealously guarded, no doubt for good if not great reasons. Patronage is not for outsiders. As one of the civil servants concerned with administration in the Cabinet Office said to me soon after I went there: "We have quite a few of your sort

THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES



through here. They come and they go. Clearly, they came too often for him, and could not go soon enough. Another conversation with a Cabinet Minister whom I shall not name went along somewhat different and unexpected lines. As the Minister began to talk, before I could say why I had come, I started to have a very curious feeling, somewhat akin to faintness, experienced by people who have taken LSD. Gradually it dawned on me that the Minister was under the impression I was Solly Zuckerman. Overwhelmed as I was by this unexpected and undeserved compliment, it made communication on the subject I had in mind rather difficult. Nor was I capable of reproducing Solly's Svengali-like power to manipulate matters to his way of thinking: no Sollyisms came to mind. Not even a Sollyism.

I could not, of course, tell you about the reactions of Sir Alec and Mr Maudling to my questions without getting their permission, which I have done, and this prompts me, again with permission, to describe my first meeting with Mr Heath, which, of course, took place at No. 10. The conversation went as follows:

Mr Heath: "It's funny we have never met before." Then there was a sort of row of dots. I could not think what to say, after a while, I said, rather desperately: "Prime Minister, do you not think it would be better to have an economist in charge of this Unit?"

Mr Heath: "I did economics at Oxford." Another row of dots. Again after a while, I said rather desperately: "Prime Minister, could you give me an example of the type of problem you want the Unit to tackle?"

Mr Heath: "Concorde." At that moment I thought, perhaps wrongly, that I detected some anguished vibrations emanating from Sir Burke Trend and Sir William Armstrong, as they then were, who were hovering in the background. There was some justification for their anguish, if I did not imagine it, because an hour beforehand they had told me it was precisely things like Concorde that the Government Think Tank would not be expected to study.

While I was still feeling the vibes, a secretary came in and handed the Prime Minister a piece of paper which he read with some signs of displeasure, and said: "Oh well, I had better see him." Turning to me, he concluded the interview by saying, "Let me know if there are any other points." Those 'other points' came quickly enough.

Lord Rothschild's Random Variables is published this week by Collins

My most recent job, for the last two and a half years, has been to be chairman of the Royal Commission on Gambling. It has proved to be a most arduous and complicated job. Not being a gambler and never having been to a race-meeting or casino, there was much for me to learn. Napoleon, I think, said we were a nation of shopkeepers. A nation of gamblers would be more appropriate, for reasons I shall now justify. The percentage of our adult population that gambles some time or other is about the same as the percentage of adults who engage in sexual intercourse. That, of course, is the statistic which I thought some of you might remember for a few moments. But there is more or worse to come. In the calendar year 1977, the amount of money we staked on our various forms of gambling was a

little less, about 10 per cent I think, than the Chancellor's recently announced Public Sector Borrowing Requirement. Of course one must treat the statistic 'money staked' with caution. It is not the amount of money lost by gamblers, which is about 11 per cent of the money staked, though, as you all know, HM Customs and Excise takes 7½% of all money staked off course on horse and dog racing.

In a survey of the whole, rather monstrous, spectrum of gambling in the United Kingdom, two sorts have struck me as being worthy of attention. The first is one-armed bandits or, as they are often called, fruit or jackpot machines. There are a vast number of these in the country and the punter gets a lousy deal from them, although he does not realize it. A one-armed bandit has to have a notice on it saying how much of the money put in is returned to the players. Not a single one of

WHERE THE SMART MONEY GOES

these notices is truthful, but that is partly the fault of the Gaming Board which does not understand elementary probability theory. Moreover, there are several ways of fixing a one-armed bandit so that it pays out less than it should, or sometimes more for a very short time, followed by less, a procedure which stimulates play and therefore profits. We describe some of the ways of fixing one-armed bandits in our report, together, of course with recommendations for neutralizing such activities.

There is no way of removing one-armed bandits from the British scene: they are now an integral part of British life. The

profits that owners make from them support some 4,000 Working Men's Clubs, 1,400 Conservative Clubs, a number of British Legion Clubs and a sizeable percentage of our 4,000 Golf Clubs. Remove the one-armed bandits and many of these organizations will become insolvent.

The second sort of gambling which I think is of special interest is lotteries. Because the very recent lottery legislation was cobbled together in great haste, it has many deficiencies. Lotteries are now out of control all over the country. The Gaming Board, which is supposed to supervise or look after them, is overwhelmed with

paper to do with them. Local Authorities, who also have a responsibility, pay no attention to them, apart from themselves running lotteries. Entrepreneurs have moved in a formidable way, to the extent that they now not only promote lotteries all over the country, but also quite often determine, indirectly, the good causes for which lotteries are run.

Apart from the entrepreneurs, there are, naturally, the bent boys. I know of one case where the so-called commission and running expenses of the lottery amounted to the staggering figure of 65 per cent of the proceeds, leaving only 35 per cent for the prizes and the good cause.

Then there is the father, interesting phenomenon of some lottery promoters requiring the printers of instant tickets to send them separately from the others those tickets with winning numbers or symbols. I am sure you can guess the

reason. If you are a friend of the promoter, there is no problem in these circumstances about your getting a winning ticket.

In the case of casinos the dangers of a gambling free-for-all were well understood by 1968; so that it is now very difficult for someone to open a new casino. The result is, of course, that those who do own casinos have a very lucrative franchise, so much so that I said to my son Jacob, who, unlike me, is a banker, that he was mad to go on banking and ought to try and buy a casino - if he was interested in profit.

So the legislation is on a tightrope. Everyone is said to agree, in this country at any rate, that free-for-all gambling is to be deprecated. But if the controls are too harsh, you drive gambling underground, with the usual consequences of criminal invasion. Alternatively, if you have rationing, the promoters are given a lucrative franchise.

WHISKY FOR A HERO



On January 28, 1955 I wrote the following letter to Bertrand Russell:

Dear Russell, I would like to present the manuscript of your recent broadcast dealing with the Hydrogen Bomb to Trinity [Trinity College, Cambridge]. Can you suggest any way in which I might acquire it?

Yours sincerely, Rothschild

He replied on the 1st February 1955:

Dear Rothschild,

Thank you for your letter of January 28. I should be very glad to give you the manuscript of my broadcast for you to present to Trinity, if you have any reason to think that Trinity would like to have it. Have you already ascertained their view about it or do you know what their view is likely to be?

The broadcast has already been reprinted as a leaflet. I do not know whether you have any suggestions how to for-

ward its object. If you have, I should be very glad to know of them.

Yours sincerely, Russell

On 21 February 1955, after making the enquiries Bertrand Russell apparently wanted and having got, needless to say, the assurances which he required, I again wrote to him:

Dear Russell, Thank you very much indeed for the manuscript. I am having a little cloth case made for it and will then hand it over to Trinity who, unknown to you, already possesses one of your manuscripts which I presented to them some years ago. I should very much like to come and have a talk to you, apart from introducing Adrian into the House of Lords on March 2nd. I shall not be in London for some while, as I am going to a Marine Biological Station to do some work on sea urchin eggs.

Would you be so kind as to let me know on the attached postcard whether you like the draft?

Yours, Rothschild

and in response, got the following postcard:

"Yes No"

but it disagrees with me and I have had to give it up."

As a result of this postcard and a further letter from Russell in which he said, "Merely I can still drink whisky", I went round at once to Matthews in Trinity Street - of course it no longer exists - and bought 12 bottles of whisky which I sent to one of the few great men I have known.

*Introducing Lord Adrian to the House of Lords was one of the most distinguished moments in my life. We rehearsed with Lord Moran for at least an hour beforehand: so that when the time came to perform, we were as good as three chorus girls in the Radio City Rockettes.

With all appropriate haste, Medera Muse.

I am not convinced at all of the need for a modern experimental poet. I just like the idea of the ceremony of "The Changing of the Avant-Garde".

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*Fares checked as accurately as possible from published information available on 27.8.84. Railcard required - costs £12. 15over fares with railcards. Fares as from 20.8.84 with Student Coach Card - costs £2.90. All fares subject to change without notice.

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GET ON WITH IT



It is a very serious offence, a gross violation of the Official Secrets Act, to remove official documents from the Cabinet Office, let alone minutes from a Prime Minister. Nevertheless, the one reproduced right did get away and in spite of the possible penalties, seemed to me worth preservation.

I was a great admirer of the late Sir John Betjeman, though not of the verse he wrote as Poet Laureate. There's something about the post which seems to turn poets into stammering amateurs, which is why Philip Larkin is the ideal choice as the next Royal verse-writer. Anyone who hasn't written a poem for 10 years and doesn't think he'll write another one is not likely to have his reputation diminished.

But those papers which have rushed in with lists of candidates have got hold of the wrong stick, never mind which end. What's wrong is the post itself - the Poet Laureateship, which in return for £70 and £27 in lieu of a butt of sack asks for the occasional verse on the Queen Mum's birthday. This is outrageously out of date, financially and artistically. May I suggest one of the following replacements?

Dub Poet Laureate. Reggae lyrics and improvised Caribbean verse are one of the liveliest forms of pop poetry. No West Indian writer, I believe, has ever been Poet Laureate, but someone like Linton Kwesi Johnson would bring welcome realism and grassroots protest to the scene. Some West Indian vocabulary is hard to understand, but not as hard as the way most poets write these days. Payment could be 10 per cent of the gate at all appearances, plus £300 in lieu of ganja.

moreover... Miles Kington

Rhymes for our times

Master of the Queen's Jingles. The jingle is one of the great urban folk forms of today, as ubiquitous and anonymous as Victorian ballads were. People who ignore a birthday or jubilee ode are likely to cock up their ears at a bright jingle introducing the Queen's Christmas Day broadcast. The successful candidate, probably a member of the advertising profession, would also be encouraged to provide more verses for the National Anthem, perhaps even mentioning products by name. Payment: TV royalties and £300 in lieu of vodka.

Jazz 'n' Poet Laureate. This might be a slightly experimental post, but it would at least give the wandering poet Michael Horowitz a firm niche in the country's culture. Also a chance to do poetry recitals from the balcony of Buckingham Palace, which is scandalously underused as a performance area. Perhaps he and his

merry jazz musicians (The Blues and Royals?) could fill in time for tourists before the guard is changed. Payment: all you can collect plus £300 in lieu of real ale.

Queen's Letter Writer. I cannot think why nobody has suggested the name of Clive James, writer of some of the best verse letters of recent times, not to mention some of the only verse letters of recent times. His duties would include travelling with the Queen abroad and sending rhyming reports home. The rest of the year he could make TV programmes such as *The Worst of Verse From Round The World*. Payment: usual royalties, plus £300 in lieu of Vegemite.

Lady-in-Writing. Has a woman ever been Poet Laureate? I do not think so. In this male-oriented society, the appointment of a female poet would do a lot to redress the balance. The name of Pam Ayres springs to mind, but no doubt there is a way round this problem. Payment the same as a man would get for the job, plus £300 dress allowance.

Master of the Queen's Greeting Cards. Much though it may pain the literary world, the vast majority of verse bought and read by the public is to be found on greeting cards. If you can't beat them, join them. The Queen is one of the few people with two birthdays - twice the oppor-

tunity to send out cards. What about the telegram messages to 100-year-olds? And messages of condolences? For example:

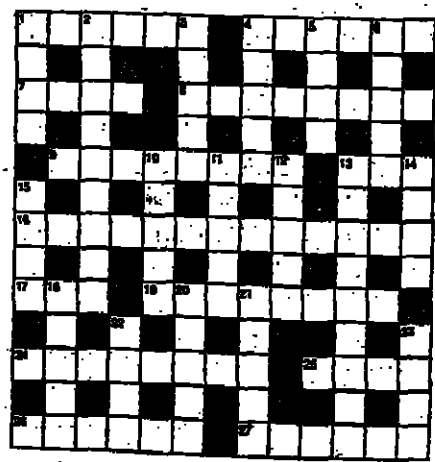
How sorry we were to hear of the flood. That laid your country waste - We are sending blankets, and

food, and blood, With all appropriate haste. Medera Muse.

I am not convinced at all of the need for a modern experimental poet. I just like the idea of the ceremony of "The Changing of the Avant-Garde".

CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 349)

- ACROSS
1 Old Testament God (6)
4 Truth (6)
7 Possession for debt (4)
8 Bedtime drink (8)
9 Leaflet (8)
13 Raincoat (3)
15 Hindrance (13)
17 For example (3)
19 Heater (8)
24 Disability (8)
25 Not upper class (3,1)
26 Reduce quality (6)
27 Already seen (4,2)



- DOWN
1 Christmas season (4)
2 Rank system (9)
3 Intuitive guess (5)
4 Impulse (5)
5 Duty list (4)
6 Jewelled headress (5)
10 Payable as penalty (5)
11 Wind deposit (5)
12 Two times (5)
13 US iron ore state (9)
14 Masticate (4)
15 Succumbs (4)
16 Flightless (9)
18 Run into (9)
21 Larkswoman (5)
22 Conception (4)
23 Stiff ballet skirt (4)

SOLUTION TO No 348
ACROSS: 1 Gateau 5 Body 8 Livid 9 Canine 11 Illusory 13 Echo 14 Sledge 15 Sledge 16 Sledge 17 More 18 Energize 21 Underdo 22 Below 23 ISBN 24 Saire
DOWN: 2 Anvil 3 End 4 Unconcerned 5 Bard 6 De Agio 7 Field 8 Cymru 10 Stonehenge 12 Sash 14 PSBR 16 Revolver 19 Infer 20 Giza 22 Bat

WEDNESDAY PAGE



The weighty business of giving up tobacco

About half a million people in Britain will give up cigarettes this year. It won't be easy, and the difficulties they experience may be compounded by symptoms they neither expect nor understand.

If you are an ex-smoker, you may be suffering from more than putting on a little extra weight or irritability. Scientists are now paying more attention to what some of them call the "rebound" or "overshoot" syndrome, in which nicotine withdrawal has a noticeable impact, temporarily, on the body.

You may find in the first days and weeks since your final cigarette that you cannot sleep, suffer from indigestion, constipation - or diarrhoea - and are hungry and depressed, as your body adjusts. You may even have an urge to repair the living-room ceiling.

On the day you stop smoking, your health begins to improve. Your heart, which cigarettes were prompting to beat faster, slows down by about 15 beats per minute. As a smoker, your hands may have trembled slightly. Nicotine in the bloodstream lowers the

skin temperature by one or two degrees centigrade, producing those minor shakes. A day without tobacco and the skin temperature returns to normal.

But you may start to get indigestion. After-dinner cigarettes, may be an aid to digestion, says Dr Frank Ledwith, a psychologist and health educationalist at Manchester University. "Indigestion is not an unusual symptom," he says. "Nicotine may assist the digestive process in some people, though not in others."

"We all know that nicotine affects the metabolic rate, but there are other symptoms that we don't fully understand. When it is withdrawn, the body has to try to remember how it used to work, perhaps many years ago."

By acting as a stimulant nicotine helps burn up calories. Stop smoking, and the same amount of food in your daily diet is likely to lead to increased weight. More weight gain is probable when eating becomes a substitute for smoking. As cigarettes dull the taste and smell, the appetite is whetted when those senses return. Again, the

consequence weight gain is likely.

Many people, particularly women, hesitate about giving up because they don't want to put on weight. But medical studies show that the average weight gain among ex-smokers after 12 months is about four pounds.

The body will eventually settle down to somewhere close to its original weight. No matter how many extra pounds are involved, the risk to health is negligible, doctors emphasise, compared with the risks of continued smoking.

Sleeping habits may fluctuate because, although nicotine is a stimulant, smokers consider cigarettes relaxing in some situations. The removal of that "relaxing" feeling may cause restlessness, making it harder to sleep.

There will be lapses of concentration and wild swings in mood, from euphoria down to depression, especially in the first few non-smoking days, as the nicotine habit squawks for attention.

"The evidence is building up to suggest that most people suffer quite a

range of adverse effects, physiological and psychological," says Mr Martin Jarvis, a clinical psychologist at the Addiction Research Unit of the Institute of Psychiatry at the University of London.

"We are trying to resolve the question whether these symptoms represent the body returning to its original, non-smoking state, or whether there is a 'rebound' or 'overshoot' phenomenon in which the body has come to tolerate nicotine, and withdrawal produces a set of specific symptoms."

"All of the symptoms are transient. Smokers who give up are bound to suffer from some of them. Quitting is hard. But they should take strength from the knowledge that the symptoms will pass," he says.

And that urge to paint the ceiling? Dr Ledwith in Manchester says: "I encourage them. It's a good idea because it physically wipes out cigarettes for them, it's psychologically strengthening, and it gives them something to do instead of smoking."

Thomson Prentice

ALAN FRANKS' DIARY

Better to travel than to arrive



To Twickenham on Sunday by ferry. One of my children's friends, Harry, who is coming too, has somehow got it into his head that automatically any crossing of water is bound for France. Thus my own two are putting it about that we are "going abroad" to where it might be dangerous. This is a classic collision of adult and infant realities. Once it has taken root and is being nourished by those powerful forces of childhood fantasy, you have as much chance of unscrambling it as you do of understanding the Common Agricultural Policy. Better not to try. So, as the evening light softens the water that laps at the White Cliffs of Richmond, I stare across at the far shore of Calais-sur-Thames with its distinctive mansion blocks and celebrated rugby ground. It seems remarkable that the 37 bus has been known to make the crossing in under 30 seconds.

Saturday. The May Fayre on the Green. I had promised myself last summer that I would avoid such occasions, my son, then three, having then got lost at the GLC Thames Day. Anyone who has ever mistreated a child will know that cold, voiceless panic that grips you when you realize what has happened. The crowd teems obliviously, around you, folding him deeper and deeper into a dark jungle of revelry. He is only feet away, tearing at some stranger's coat flaps, but he might as well be in the heart of Borneo.

The thing about parents is that they never learn, and to the Green we go. Here are Samaritan stalls, Rouarian sales or work, rickshaw rides, vicars in Regency rig, tiny hand-turned carousels and helium balloons that fly up over the gables and are gone forever from the hands of wailing toddlers. Over there at the residents' association stall is Petronella and the community conscience, Bobby Marshall. Neither could be described as radiant, since their co-workers, notably the horrible Parris Maitland, have spent the past three hours doing good works in the beer tent.

And here is a man in a splendid red tunic, with a bugle in his hand. A voice at my knee warns me that this is "a dangerous soldier from the France boat". The reality is hardly less formidable; he belongs to the Barnes and Mortlake Operative Society, which is doing Patience this month. The boy snaps into the standard Star Wars pose, fixes him with a non-existent gun and demands to know where he had come from. The French soldier replies, with great politeness: "Actually, I live just across the river", and his aggressor casts a "Told you so" look in my direction.

The rumours about the Street Radical are indeed true; his boys are down for one of London's better-known feuding families.

First child: "There are people under the grass, fast asleep."

Second child: "I think they're dead."

First child: "The broken stones are where the witches lie."

Harry: "That one was killed by the boat soldiers from France." (Can he have read the inscription which says: "died 1815")

First child: "The very big stones with the walls are where families died together."

Second child: "I'm going to climb on them."

Passer-by: "Tut, tut."

Baby: "Yeeeeeeowww!"

O to be in France now that spring is here. The ferryman is puzzled by being referred to as a light-saber. I try to explain to him that this was meant to be life-saver and, like everything else, got bent to fit the Star Wars vocabulary.

Once in France, the real action starts. The first of the enemy is hit by a hail of martial sound-effects, ranging from the cowboy to the galactic. He is a jogging actor, and slumps to the towpath, with ghastly realism. A chastened silence falls on the posse, broken at last by Harry's proposal that we "sail the man back to the graveyard". Up jumps the actor and on he jogs. I have come to the conclusion that, while children are concerned, adults fall into one of two categories - the shootable and the unshootable; that is, those who are prepared to be assimilated by the fantasy, and those who think it all a disgraceful encroachment on the grown-up monopoly of reality. I myself have been shot so many times that I am beginning to wonder where I stand.

Raging calm of a country wife

Angela Huth is frightened of two things - both of them are death. In the first place she is terrified that her experiences will pass by unrecorded. From the age of five she has written feverishly, describing every thought and incident. At the age of nine she was stunned to discover that not everybody did this. "I didn't understand what other people did with what they thought and saw if they didn't write them down." Now she writes about a page and a half of a diary every day, earnestly cataloguing domestic details and the weather for fear that they would otherwise be simply lost.

The second terror is a full-blooded phobia. She cannot stand dolls. Rigid human effigies provoke "sheer, utter horror" and neither of her daughters has ever been allowed such toys. Like all phobias she has come to a complex accommodation with her problem - she knows, for example, how to walk round Harrods avoiding any possible encounters. "If one touches me I suppose I would pass out completely. It's death really."

But writing and dolls had never come together until her new novel *Wanting*. It opens with a grotesque chapter in which a widower disposes of some life-size dummies which he and his wife had used as surrogate children for their barren marriage. The passage ends with the heroine finding them posed life-like on the sea shore.

"It's extremely hard to convey in literature. I just thought I might try one day. It's taken a very long time. Anybody who doesn't know me will think it's a perfectly ordinary, slightly spooky beginning. I don't know what effect it might have on anybody else. I just know I was very frightened writing it."

Huth speaks happily of the cold touch of death in her mind and her books on a glorious day in Oxford. She lives there with

In her new novel
Angela Huth reveals
her terror of dolls.
She talks here of
her life and her
driving urge to write

her husband James Howard-Johnston, a don at Corpus Christi, and one of her daughters three-year-old Eugenie. They occupy a vast, Victorian mansion in two and a half acres of garden. It may as well be the heart of the country but it is not quite good enough for her. She has elicited a promise from her husband that some day soon they will return to the real country.

The author and the married woman have always had a difficult relationship. In fact *Nowhere Girl*, her first published novel, came out just as her first marriage to Quentin Crewe was breaking up. "I was very proud because he always said I would never write a book."

This was also the time that a real career had blossomed. She became a presenter for *Man Alive* in the days when BBC2 was happily breeding a whole litter of new highish-brow Sixties faces. In fact because of the *Man Alive* style the back of her head was usually in shot. But with the appearance of Tony Palmer's arts programme *How it is* she suddenly became familiar in a Billow-Bakewell kind of way - experienced, free-wheeling and yet dreadfully earnest.

Palmer became her second husband but the marriage was short-lived and Huth retreated to the Wiltshire cottage she had bought with the surprisingly large proceeds from *Nowhere Girl*. For eight years she wrote, turning out novels, short stories and television plays, while Candida, the daughter of her first marriage went to school nearby. "It was so nice, my life, and I had no intention of ever getting married again."

But then along came James and she was back with the problem of reconciling married life and art. Furthermore she became pregnant with Eugenie and pregnancy is the one thing which makes writing impossible. The result is that *Wanting* was held up for almost five years from its first inspiration and emerges at a time when the Huth name had become dangerously dissociated from the regular production of well-received novels.

But the work is now flowing again mainly at the moment, in the form of a second stage play. She has a part-time nanny for Eugenie which gives her four hours every morning and her husband, a bachelor until he was 36, is quite happy with a marriage that involves them being separated by their private obsessions for long periods. He is a Labour councillor in Oxford, an activity with which he wife gamely tries to sympathize.

"I don't know enough about it and I get bored by the saturation coverage of politics - there seems to be much more than there ever was."

Huth, perhaps uncharacteristically for a member of the glittering prizes crew who dominated the 1960s, loathes the idea of any "big" issues intruding on her work. Feminism, in particular seems to give her cold shivers.

"I'm not against it - naturally I believe in all the fundamental ideals - but I just think the whole thing has become so immensely humdrum. Also it's very long, the lunatic fringe has taken over. I think that's lost them a lot of sympathy. Worst of all I think they're loony about men. Maybe they've all had very bad times with men..." There is a moments silence as we both listen for distant howls of outrage.

The purpose of her novels lies in their much smaller scale victories: "I think if possibly I could ever make anybody reading my books recognize any of the things that I am describing which would give them either a sense of pleasure or make them smile. Or if I made them say: 'I think I know exactly what she means by that', then I'd be pleased."

Wanting is the story of a macabre obsessive who pursues a faintly neurotic middle-class English country girl and threatens to destroy the fragile equilibrium of her life. It revolves round the themes of infatuation, loneliness and desperation, finally resolving them in a celebration of English rural family life. Even the doll-fixated widower finds peace with real people.

Huth would loathe that summary as it suggests the sort of direction of which she would be unconscious and slightly suspicious. Writing has become too much of an instinctive operation for her to be able to stand back and pass comments. She does, however, talk with some enthusiasm about her characters with whom she clearly has a lively relationship. They have always been totally imaginary apart from one lonely case in *Sun Child*. A friend admitted to her he had always cherished an ambition to be in a book - "he is quite famous really" - so she inserted a thumbnail sketch with, she feels, disastrous results.

Finally, apart from the characters, the one thing she does know about her writing is that there is not enough of it. She seems to have third fear which is threatening to become as intense as the other two - that she is insufficiently productive. She aspires to a huge oeuvre and speaks enviously of the relentless productivity of a writer like A. N. Wilson. The problem is, however, that it is becoming more difficult.

"I find it harder every day. When I started out writing I thought it would be pretty easy. But after 25 years you begin to feel you're just about getting the hang of writing a sentence but then that's a sort of trap - you get enmeshed in craft. The terrible thing is that all these things get worse."



Angela Huth talks quite happily about the cold touch of death in her mind

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Bryan Appleyard

"Wanting is published by Harvill Press tomorrow at £8.95."

An apple delight any day

It has been an apple-riden week, one way and another. I started with a sample box of eaters from New Zealand, where it is now late summer and apple-picking time. They were Royal Gala, a crisp, sweet apple with a fresh taste and a thin skin that does not need chewing long after the flesh has been swallowed.

Reinette, another hard eating apple, cropped up twice in one meal in France at the weekend. The chef had used one of those melon-balling scoops to produce bits of apple the size of small cherries. These, I think, had been poached then briefly fried, and turned up like a necklace circling slices of hot foie gras. Heavenly.

There was an apple pudding too which sounded quite modest from its description on the menu. But this was Roger Vergé's two-star L'Amandier at Mougins on the Côte d'Azur so there was nothing self-effacing about puddings here.

On an oval dinner plate came a hot, light individual apple pie made with the flimsiest puff pastry and topped with a caramel which had been softened in a bowl made of thin, sweet biscuit and filled with a calvados flavoured ice. Under all ran a river of proper custard, vanilla flavoured and not too sweet. It was twice the size of most main dishes, delicious, and much too much.

Then on Wednesday Anton Mosimann of the Dorchester offered a very good apple garnish to serve with sautéed breast of duck. He softened pieces of cooking apple, in this case cut or turned in the shape of elongated rugby balls, in caramelized brown sugar and white wine. The duck breasts had been skinned before cooking so the finished dish had a far lower fat content than most recipes for this bird. Mr Mosimann, who has just moved to a consultant to La Petite Cuisine School of Cooking in Richmond, and was demonstrating there for the first time, was much concerned with healthier eating. It is the subject of his new book, due to be published next year.

There are always lots of oddly shaped bits of apple left over whenever the fruit is peeled for balls or torpedos shaped pieces. Like profit-conscious chefs, good cooks use the off-

THE TIMES COOK

Shona Crawford Poole

cuts for other dishes, but you may well think the effort of making them at all a waste of time. Settle then for slices which are quicker, pretty in their own right, and take half as many apples to produce.

Glazed apple garnish
Serves four to six

300 g (2lb) hard dessert or cooking apples
1 tablespoon lemon juice
4 tablespoons demerara or soft brown sugar

150ml (1/4 pint) white wine or cider

To make apple balls, peel the apples whole and use the smaller scoop of a melon balling tool to cut the shapes. To prevent them browning, drop the balls into a bowl of cold water acidulated with the lemon juice.

To make turned pieces of apple, peel the fruit and cut the flesh into thick batons. Shape the ends of them with a knife as you would sharpen a pencil. Or, quarter, peel, core and cut the apples into fairly thick crescent-shaped slices.

Put the sugar in a wide, heavy-based pan on a low heat and watch it closely. Heat the sugar gently until it melts. Add the wine or cider and stir until the caramel, which hardens on contact with the liquid, melts again. Add the apples to pan (they should be in one layer so cook them in two batches if necessary) and shake them over a low heat until they are as tender as you like. They can be a little crisp or very soft.

Serve the glazed apples with duck or pork or with any game that responds to sweet and tart fruit flavoured sauces.

Calvados, sometimes called apple brandy, flavours this ice cream. I have used classic French ice cream custard base and sweetened it less than usual. Like sugar, the alcohol in the calvados inhibits the formation of large crystals during freezing, so the recipe is easy to make with no more equipment than an ice-cube making compartment in a small fridge.

Owners of freezer churns could reduce the quantities of sugar and egg yolk still further to produce an even lighter ice if it is for immediate use.

Calvados ice cream
Serves four to six

5 egg yolks
170 g (6 oz) sugar
Pinch of salt
600 ml (1 pint) milk
8 tablespoons calvados

Set the freezer to its lowest setting.

Beat together the egg yolks, sugar and salt then whisk in the milk. Heat the mixture slowly in a heavy pan, stirring constantly until the custard is just thick enough to coat the back of a wooden spoon.

Cool the custard, stir in the calvados, and pour it into a flat bottomed metal or plastic container. Loaf tins and plastic boxes are ideal. Cover and freeze the mixture as quickly as possible until it has the texture of stiff slush.

Turn it into a bowl and whisk the ice vigorously until it is smooth. Return it to the freezer to freeze until firm. If it should become too hard before it is needed, thaw or ripen it a little in the refrigerator before serving.

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THE TIMES DIARY

Partisan over

Colin Barnett, the self-styled "Christian-Marxist" who led the public employees union in North-west England until his retirement this month, has offered to balance his bias should he secure work as a university lecturer. He has approached both Liverpool and Manchester universities.

In a letter, passed to me anonymously, Barnett offers "considerable knowledge of industrial relations... I fully appreciate that my known partisan approach would have to be modified." Yesterday he told me he was prepared to be more even-handed for the sake of academia - but there was no question of his becoming right-wing. "I shall live and die a left-wing socialist."

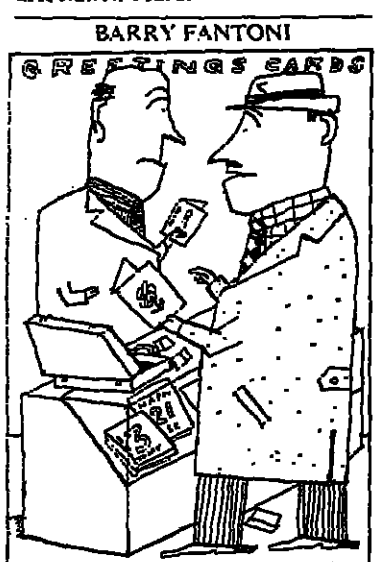
● The Scottish Labour Party launches its European election campaign in Glasgow tomorrow. It should be interesting. The party has only two MEPs - Janey Buchan (Glasgow) and Ken Collins (East Strathclyde), neither will be there.

Bowled under

The Young Vic Theatre tells me it is having problems finding an actor willing to play Dave, a Liverpudlian whose stag night forms the basis of *Stags and Hens* by Willy Russell, author of *Educating Rita*, which opens on July 5. This may be explained by the fact that for the entire two and a half hours, Dave has his head down a Liverpool nightclub lavatory, apparently felled by an overdose of Southern Comfort.

Losing a packet

John Player's £80,000 sponsorship of the National Theatre's *She Stoops to Conquer* tour this autumn is in danger of going up in a proverbial puff of smoke following Equity's resolution to withdraw tobacco sponsorship from the arts. The union's council is expected to make a ruling today on the motion that actors should refuse work on productions sponsored by "companies whose products are harmful to health". Yesterday neither the National nor John Player stooped to conquer with a lobby at the council's meeting - that was left to the Association for Business Sponsorship of the Arts. Meanwhile, a certain Peter Plouviez was providing onlookers with a spot of comic relief - to his embarrassment he doubles as Equity's general secretary while sitting on the sponsorship association board.



Out of step

The Royal Ballet is unlikely to pay any tributes for some time to the work of its former leading dancer, Michael Somes, who left the company abruptly this week. Although both sides are keeping quiet, I am told Somes's long and distinguished career ended in acrimony not entirely unconnected with his old-fashioned ideas of strict discipline. Somes could be irascible: he once pursued this paper's dance critic John Percival up the main staircase at Sadler's Wells offering to "knock him down" in revenge at what he felt was an unkind review - not of himself. Apparently Somes, who was Fonteyn's partner, recently had a "difference of opinion" with Sir Kenneth MacMillan over the casting of a principal role in *Romeo and Juliet*.

● Wanted, a white horse for Jennie Binnie, who plans to ride naked - police permitting - along London's New Kings Road to launch an exhibition of the Neo-naturalist art/nudity movement. If no nag is forthcoming, she says she'll settle for a goat.

Remote chance

A real-life drama, almost identical to the story of the film *Local Hero*, is consuming the lives of the villagers in Knoydart, a remote Scottish peninsula which has been on the market at £2m for the last three years. The intrigue began a month ago when a mysterious American millionaire, Dr L. A. Alexander, sailed in (Knoydart is inaccessible by road), moved into a cottage, and regaled the 60 villagers with his £5m project for their homeland - a health farm for film stars, recording and artists' studios. The locals, being a canny lot, were sceptical; earlier plans to turn Knoydart into an Army training ground and National Trust reserve have already fallen through. Alexander, however, won them over; by the time he left two weeks ago, "He was getting a stone at every door," said one. Yesterday he was understood to be in Amsterdam, yet to show the colour of his money. Will he no come back again?

PHS

A chance to beat the far left

by Anne Sofer

From behind the closed doors of the town halls of Peckham, Hackney and other London boroughs comes the sound of bone-crunching and sinew-tearing as the revolution devours its young. One by one, the leaders of the left-wing victories of 1982 are being toppled by those further to the left.

Different noises have been heard during the same period from Westminster: the snoring indifference during all-night sittings of MPs considering the Government's Paving Bill proposing to abolish the 1985 GLC elections.

The two are as closely connected as the tick of the time bomb's clock to its ensuing detonation. It is essential that someone does something about it before it is too late.

This is not a final appeal to the Government to abandon its Bill - which it should - but to change a small detail to which it has given little thought, and over which it would lose no face: the date of the election to the body which will replace the Inner London Education Authority.

Under present government plans, a board nominated by the London boroughs will be in charge for the 12 months between May 1985, when the term of office of most present ILEA members expires, and the election in May 1986.

Thus, in little over a year, London education will be run by three different

administrations, at a time of enforced budget cuts and large-scale reorganization due to falling rolls. Moreover, the interim board will consist of councillors who never contemplated running an education authority, who may have little relevant interest, and who are likely to be ignorant of the schools outside their own borough.

It is rational objections like these that are snored through in the Commons - as Simon Hughes, Liberal MP for Bermondsey, discovered when he moved an amendment to bring the election forward to 1985, the logical date. It failed.

To return to the hard-left London Labour boroughs: like the Liverpool Labour leadership, London's new wave believes in confrontation: no cuts in services, no rent rises, no rate rises - the by-now familiar recipe for bankruptcy and chaos. How many London boroughs next year - with the additional provocation of rate-capping - will actually go down that road is anybody's guess.

Yet these are the people which the unamended Paving Bill will put in control of London's education for that crucial interim year. That the Government should seek, as far as the GLC is concerned, to replace an

elected Labour administration with an unelected Conservative one is thoroughly undemocratic but - in political terms - comprehensible. That it should replace an elected left-wing ILEA with an unelected group of revolutionary fantasists makes no sense at all - unless it is seen as part of a deliberate plot to undermine the Labour Party. If it is the latter, may I beg the Conservatives - as a parent rather than a politician - to carry on such activities elsewhere to avoid our children being hurt.

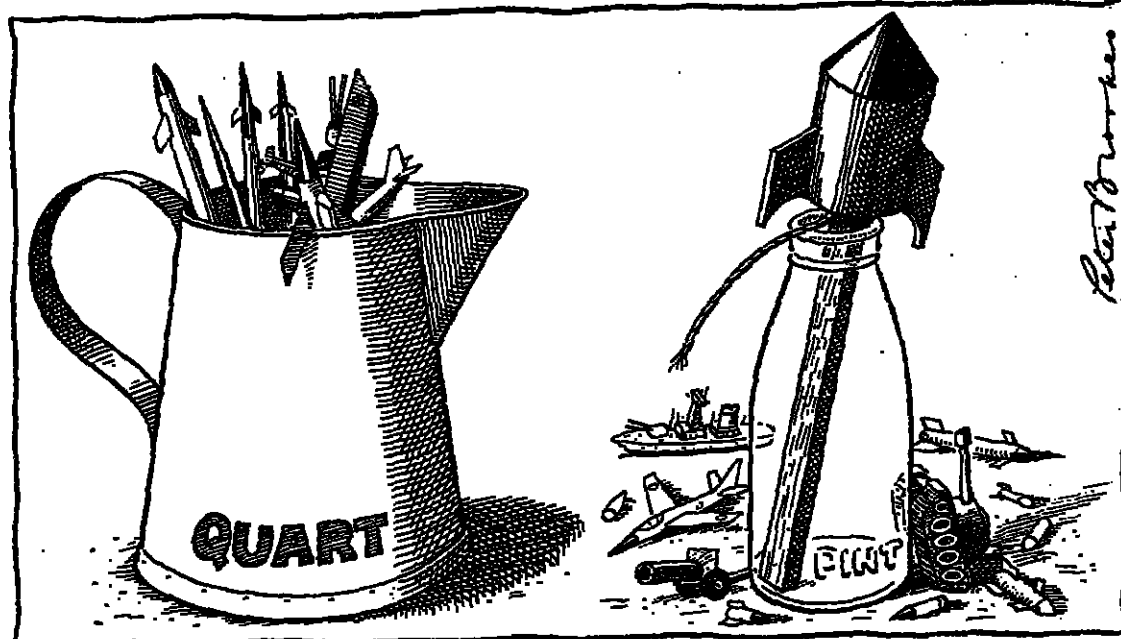
Only an ILEA election in 1985 with Labour obliged to show its colours can stop the slide into confrontation and anarchy. The London electorate would not respond kindly to a Labour manifesto that promised a bankrupt ILEA and educational disruption. Nor would it happily elect politicians who had failed in their legal duty to fix a balanced budget.

For that is the other crucial point. Next spring, the ILEA Labour group will have to agree a rate-capped budget, deciding on cuts that are anathema to them, in the face of taunts in their local party meetings of "Tory scab", "class traitor", and "reformist scum". Unless they are at the same time facing the electorate it is hard to see what incentive they will have to act responsibly.

The author is SDP member of the GLC/ILEA for St Pancras North.

John Barry on Heseltine's misplaced defence optimism

Why we still can't dodge the hard choice



The Opposition's choice to debate cruise missiles in the House of Commons today is a waste of the scarce resources of public attention and parliamentary time. The missiles may be useful as totems, but they are subsidiary to the real questions to be asked about British defence policy.

Those questions are not asked by CND or the Labour Party; the debate about the principle of the British nuclear programme effectively ended with the last election. They were last asked during Mr (now Sir) John Nott's tenure at the Ministry of Defence. But the Falklands crisis put paid to rational discussion.

Now the questions, and the tough choices they place before ministers, are being dodged. "Of course we have not got a really serious defence policy", one of Whitehall's most distinguished pensioners mused recently. "We can all set out succinctly what the policy is. But it means very little."

The pensioner was Sir Frank Cooper, lately permanent under-secretary at the Ministry of Defence, talking before last week's Defence Estimates. Yet anyone scanning the Estimates could be forgiven for bewilderment. No defence policy? Why, here are pages of it:

- Defence of the British Isles: "the heart of our defence policy";
- The defence of territory in central Europe: "the forward defence of Britain itself, demanding 'first claim on our defence resources'";
- The naval defence of the eastern Atlantic and channel: "crucial to the conventional defence of central Europe";
- A capacity to intervene in the rest of the world: "In areas where we have historic ties or where our security interests are involved we need to be prepared to accept our share of the burden..."

And of course our national nuclear forces - the Government regarding the case as so clearly established that this year's statement does not bother to repeat the arguments.

As the Defence Secretary Michael

Heseltine, said when introducing the estimates, "The range and extent of our contribution to the sea, land and air defences of the alliance is matched only by the United States".

Our policy is to do virtually everything. That is Sir Frank Cooper's point: "We do not want to upset the services in the sense that one or more of them is apparently doing better than the other: we do not want to upset political parties; we do not want to upset the population by making choices; and we certainly do not want to upset industry."

Since the end of the Second World War British defence policy can be seen as one long series of choices, usually painful at the time, as we shed the commitments of empire. The Long Recession, one 1960s study called the process. If we have now stripped ourselves to the irreducible core of our defence and security requirements, what need is there for further choice?

One could begin by pointing to the defence budget which, which Britain is still saddled. The Ministry of Defence reckons we spent £16bn in the 1983/84 financial year and will spend about £17bn this year. After the US that is the highest defence spending, in total and per head, of any country in Nato. After the US and Greece, locked into its private arms race with Turkey, it also represents the highest percentage in Nato of national GNP devoted to defence. In practice the defence establishment takes 45 per cent of the output of Britain's aerospace industry, 20 per cent of our electronics output and 30 per cent of our shipbuilding.

The effects of defence spending

upon an advanced industrial economy are more debated than defined. But the figures do pose the question why Britain, scarcely the most successful economic power in Europe, should be carrying a burden so disproportionate to those our allies feel compelled to shoulder.

The answer is of course that we do so because we do not want to make further painful choices. In fact the latest batch of estimates signals the final retreat from the most recent effort to make hard choices: Nott's 1980/81 defence review.

Mr Heseltine would challenge this, pointing out that the defence roles remain those defined by Nott. But the underlying reality is that the centrepiece of Nott's programme has been abandoned. The aircraft carriers, which Nott wanted to sell or scrap, sail on. The general purpose frigates and destroyers he wanted to mothball, and would have liked to sink, return to the front line. Its influence amplified by the Falklands war, the Navy lobby has won.

Michael Heseltine is doing the job he was put there by Mrs Thatcher to do. Nobody liked the Nott choices and Heseltine is tiptoeing away from them. Mr Heseltine's message is soothing: that we do not need, after all, to make hard choices. With proper management, he says - especially tough action to hold defence equipment costs - we can afford to sustain more military roles than Nott believed. After long years of contraction, we can even expand our combat forces slightly.

But the time scale of procurement is so long that any one government's flexibility is less than it appears on

paper. Projects which are still five years away from service can in theory have half their total budget still to be spent; but in practice the programme can only be tinkered with at the price of costly disruptions to the work flow. The other hurdle is: apply pressure to the costings of Britain's defence industries, as Mr Heseltine is doing, and the industries will adjust to restore the equilibrium of the system in ways he almost certainly cannot predict. Change is a slow process.

Mr Heseltine may succeed, though the pressures on the budget are even heavier now than they were in Nott's time. As the indefatigable David Greenwood of Aberdeen's Centre for Defence Studies puts it: "By the middle of this decade, Heseltine has got to be getting about £200m worth of defence output out of an £18bn budget."

The verdict of most informed observers would be that Heseltine's management reforms will indeed bite, but not enough greatly to affect the big projects already in the pipeline.

If that is true, it means that by the late 1980s we will be faced once more with the necessity for choice. Sir Frank Cooper, for one, sees positive virtues in this: "I think we are going to have to change because what is really compelling change is the whole problem of defence procurement. But I would have hoped, though this is really rather idealistic, that we would have changed because we started to think rather more deeply and thoroughly about what kind of policy we ought to be following."

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Yes, they will buy a used president

Malamud's film *The Natural*, starring Robert Redford.

The message projected by the advertisements is unashamedly upbeat and optimistic, a deliberate reflection of the President's own sunny personality and what has been described as his "1950s Norman Rockwell vision of America".

America is depicted as a land of wide vistas, neat towns, booming factories, inhabited by a wholesome, well-fed populace. There is no poverty, no unemployment, Lebanon, Central America and nuclear weapons are unheard of.

In one voice intones, "Now that our country is turning around, why should we ever turn back?", a discreet reference to the political and economic malaise that became the hallmark of President Carter's administration. In another the same confident voice says "under the leadership of President Reagan our country is prouder and stronger and better".

It is no wonder that the President was "very excited" by the advertisements when he was given a private viewing at the White House last Thursday.

This week's TV spots are only the opening shot of the Reagan reelection campaign: \$2m more will be spent on advertising before the Republican Convention in August, millions more when the campaign begins in earnest after Labour Day at the beginning of September.

The tone of the advertisements underscores one of the built-in advantages of incumbency. A president who is seeking reelection has to run on his record - and in the view of many American voters

Reagan's record is pretty good. The economy is undergoing a strong recovery, inflation is low, unemployment is falling, most other indicators are turning upwards.

In areas where the record is less bright, the President has proved remarkably successful in distancing himself from the actions of his administration. Throughout his presidency his advisers have sought to dissociate him from bad news.

His ability to stand above the messy business of day-to-day politics, to act almost as if he were the nation's master of ceremonies, has earned him the epithet "the Good News President". He is also known as "the man in the Teflon suit" - the dirt never sticks.

This upbeat image is constantly reinforced by his brilliant manipulation of the media, particularly television, which invariably seems to portray the day-to-day happenings of his presidency as a constant flow of positive visual images. To the millions who watch television each night his continual air of untroubled optimism starkly contrasts with the vicious feuding taking place between his Democratic opponents.

In this election year Reagan's almost regal image is being further burnished by the pageantry of high-profile foreign journeys. Last month he was in China. While he was being fettered in the Great Hall of the People, Mondale and Hart were cutting each other up in Texas.

Next month he will be in Normandy for the fortieth anniversary of the D-Day landings, in Ireland to visit the land of his ancestors, and in London for the economic summit. While he domi-

nates the nightly newscasts, his Democratic challengers will be slugging out their last round of primaries in California and New Jersey.

Then the President goes on to open the Los Angeles Olympics which, even minus the Russians, will be a glittering spectacle, particularly as American athletes are likely to scoop up the lion's share of the medals without a challenge from the communist bloc. Finally there will be his "coronation" at the Republican Convention in Dallas, an occasion that is as likely to be as harmonious as the Democratic convention will be acrimonious.

When it comes to imagery, then, the cards are heavily stacked in Reagan's favour. Whoever wins the Democratic nomination will be challenging a man who is not only popular and represents an optimistic image of America that many of his fellow countrymen share, but who has also managed to master the media.

It is perhaps not surprising, therefore, that many people, inside politics and out, feel that a Reagan victory in November is virtually assured. Neither Mondale nor Hart is seen as a match for him, even though the electoral arithmetic (Democrats outnumber Republicans by 58 to 35 per cent) is theoretically in their favour.

His campaign staff believe he is almost unbeatable, but admit there are three possibilities which could bring about his defeat - a sudden bout of ill health which would raise concern about his age; a mishandling of an international crisis, or a big increase in interest rates.

But barring these unforeseen disasters they are confident that a majority of Americans will agree with the words of one of this week's advertisements: "For the first time in a long time, hope for the future is coming back".

Nicholas Ashford

Digby Anderson

All in all I tend to disagree

It is going to be a busy season for that popular double-act, *By and Large*. Their appearance in *The Teachers' Dispute* has been widely acclaimed and they are now set to star in Sir Keith Joseph's *Tenure's End*.

The Teachers' Dispute opens with starting teachers complaining about their pitiful salaries. Their complaints are followed by statements from assorted Ignorant Persons, including parents, ex-pupils and Ministers of Education, heartlessly accusing the teachers of working only half-a-day, enjoying lengthy holidays and receiving more pay than the market rate. At this moment, *By and Large* appear, usually in Letters to the Editor from Prestigious Persons and Professional Organizations. "By and Large," teachers work many more hours than those taken up by classroom teaching. What the Ignorant Persons assume is free time or holidays is packed with parent-teacher meetings, marking, preparation and unpublishing. *By and Large*, all in all, by far the vast majority of teachers are conscientious, hard working, highly qualified, and underpaid." By and Large are usually accompanied, for their performance, by The Rotten Apples. "Of course there is the odd teacher who abuses his conditions of employment. In all walks of life there is always someone who lets the side down. Teachers are not superhuman. There will always be the exception but (chorus: *lenie e appassionato*) by and large teachers are conscientious..."

Sir Keith Joseph has now proposed "that... secure in the universities should for future appointments be limited". By and Large seem likely to have a major part in this dispute too, indeed much the same part they have played in *The Teachers' Dispute*. Only the props need changing. Once again the Ignorant Persons will allege that a number of lecturers teach little and badly, complete next to no published research, and are paid more than the market rate. Once again, the prestigious will intone that "in any system which grants the autonomy necessary for academic scholarship there are bound to be a few who take advantage, but, by and large, lecturers work hard and deserve public support: more money and a salary for life regardless of their performance."

The *By and Large* routine artfully over-simplifies the range of results achieved by teachers and lecturers whom it allocates to one of only two classes, the competent, hard-working, underpaid majority and the tiny, incompetent and lazy minority. Nothing need be done about the former except to give them more money; nothing can be done about the latter: they will always be with us though scarcely poor.

The *By and Large* view is a staple of the rhetoric of spokesmen for public bureaucracies and syndicates. But ask an individual in such a bureaucracy or syndicate, an individual teacher or lecturer, about the range of performance in his department of 20 and he will paint a much more differentiated picture. Two are deadbeats, one never there, the other not allowed to teach for fear of reprisals; ten are time-server, once energetic and qualified but now tired and out of date with developments in their subjects; six work hard and successfully in trying conditions; one was splendid for 20 years but is now enjoying a "mid-life crisis" involving protracted and time-consuming adultery with a laboratory technician; and the last is a genius who loses the department's papers. The picture is unreliable and ungeneralizable, but less implausible than the cosy nature of *By and Large*.

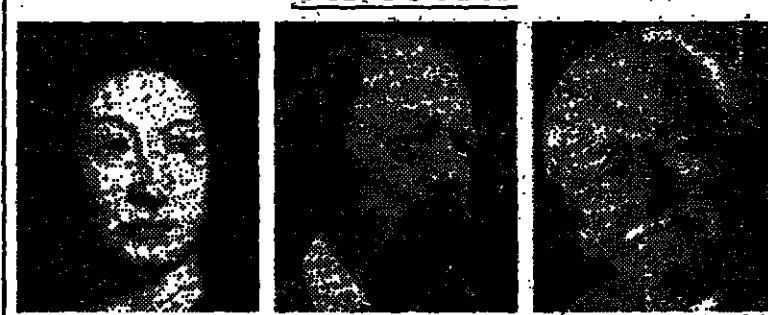
For exceptional performance *By and Large* dismiss The Rotten Apples and are backed by Extraneous Factors Unlimited. "By and large schools give excellent service." In the rare cases where results appear poor, this is attributable to the social class composition of the intake, the urban crisis, shortage of video-tape recorders or the aggressive marketing techniques of adhesive salesmen. Certainly some schools and teachers do face these problems, but manifestly some deal with them better than others thanks to their superior competence and commitment. We should not be so mesmerized by the heart-rendering spectacle of all Extraneous Factors Unlimited that we forget the very different success rates of teachers and schools confronting similar outside problems.

If teachers are indeed humans as *By and Large* claim, then presumably they require a system of payment which plays on their human hopes and fears so as to encourage maximum performance. If the ranges of teacher and lecturer performance, generally and in "problem" areas, are not simple dichotomies but richly varied, they require a sensitive system of payment. This system, would, boot out the deadbeats and give their jobs to well-qualified, younger, prospective teachers willing to do them at considerably less cost to the taxpayer; reduce the salaries of the time-server but offer the prospect of substantial increases if performance improves; suspend the adulterer until the affair was ended; or, most important of all, raise the salaries of the successful six enormously.

It is admittedly difficult to envisage how a system of performance-related payment could improve the memory of the genius who loses things, but he is a tiny minority, by and large.

The author is director of the Social Affairs Unit.

John Jones



Can Dryden ride again?

We have been wonderfully lucky with John Betjeman. We have reaped the two-in-one harvest of a good poet and a great patriot. The second of these is harder to come by than the first. Gifted poets are always with us, even in these telly-sodden days when every kind of decent writing has its back to the wall. But patriotism - if I may put Nurse Cavell into reverse - has usually proved too much, even from Dryden, Wordsworth, Tennyson, the three giants in the job; while Alfred Austin's ode celebrating the Jameson Raid and printed in *The Times* has been nominated the worst poem by the worst Laureate since the eighteenth century. (But we probably touched on this with Henry Fyfe in 1970, who was at least ridiculed by his contemporaries, or with Nahum Tate at the Restoration who wrote *King Lear* with a happy ending.)

The Poet Laureate is an officer of the Royal Household, bringing what he has and adding what he can to the tradition of knee-breeches and silver buckles. Betjeman brought his artless-seeming lyric and narrative gift, and his love of England. The erudition of that love was masked by its whimsicality. So was its courage. It must have been a lonely business preaching St Pancras in the early days.

And Betjeman also brought with him a sort of eternal English boarding-school adolescence. He would talk privately about girls, their hair, eyes, legs. Then he would stop, and look round furtively, and ask in tones of subdued wonder "Am I a sex maniac?" But he did not bring, nor could he find, the skill of ceremonial versifying. Westminster Abbey is not the place for rhyming "Wembley" with "trembling". For me, his little piece on the Duke of Windsor is his only Laureate thing to hit the mark.

This is the problem now, as thoughts turn to a successor. Obviously, we need a man who has some patience with old institutions - who at least respects the monarchy. He must be able to judge the work of others, since his opinion is constantly sought, and the Queen's

Medal is awarded on his advice. Above all, the great occasion must make him want to reach for his pen rather than feel he has to. Before Southey and Wordsworth, the main province of Laureates was the writing of birthday odes. Then the scene opened up. From birth to death was a short step, and our literature gained such fine poems as Tennyson's *Ode on The Death of the Duke of Wellington*.

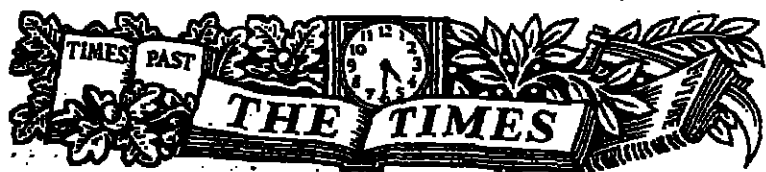
And now as we await the appointment of a new Laureate, the sky is the limit. But it remains a public job, and for most people - unreflective people but nevertheless people who have an attitude - the word public is enough to banish the thought and destroy the possibility of poetry. Public poetry became a contradiction in terms because of the romantic assumption that poetry is the private, solitary and inward, and because of romanticism about sincerity and spontaneity. Whereas the right frame of mind, the frame of mind of the man we want, is that the Princess of Wales will give him a job of work to do when she has her next baby. It is up to him to do a good job.

But what does "good" mean? If we complain to him that his poem isn't very memorable, he may reply that we managed, to get through it over breakfast; it marked the day; and thereafter it was good enough to wrap the fish and chips in. That's what Dryden would have said, and as names are mentioned we may hope to light upon a baby Dryden standing, the wings - not reluctantly, not even modestly.

For the idea of the job begins with Petrarch, Chaucer's laureate poet. At the dawn of the European Renaissance, Petrarch decided he would like the feel of the laurel, and he offered himself more or less simultaneously to the Kings of Naples and France. He submitted himself to public examination in all aspects of the science of poetry, and then delivered the goods, gave a terrific performance and was crowned Poet Laureate in Rome in 1341.

The author is Professor of Poetry at Oxford University.

Anderson
all I tend
is agree



P.O. Box 7, 200 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8EZ. Telephone: 01-837 1234

WAITING GAME

It is clear from almost every Soviet statement recently that the Communist leaders in Moscow hope to frighten the western world into believing that President Reagan is the cause of all tension. The Soviet leadership obviously does not want Mr Reagan to be re-elected. Just as obviously it wants to convince Europeans that Mr Reagan's re-election would be a danger to them too. In previous meetings with the Italian and Spanish foreign ministers, and now with Herr Genscher, it has been the same refrain. Sir Geoffrey Howe's turn will come in July, when he will presumably be exposed to this now familiar pattern of diplomatic fury which is the tale of all recent travellers to Moscow.

The Soviets are hoping to exploit the evident and often repeated desire by the west - including President Reagan - to maintain a dialogue between the two systems rather than to abandon communications altogether. The Soviets know only too well from their study of the political psychology of the liberal democracies that there are thought to be more votes in summery than in standstillness. Perhaps they feel that if they bend enough western ears about the iniquity of Mr Reagan and the urgent need for the cruise and Pershing missiles to be taken away from Europe again, they will achieve both the defeat of Mr Reagan at the polls and the withdrawal of the missiles.

We should thus be on our guard. We should remember that this sound and fury stems primarily from the fact that the installation of the missiles in west Europe constituted a most decisive diplomatic defeat for the Soviet Union. All its efforts of political manipulation and propaganda had been deployed for years to prevent the installation of the missiles, while using that argument to undermine the cohesion of the allies, who had collectively taken the decision in 1979 which led to the missile deployment.

With the start of western missile deployment the Soviet Union withdrew from the Geneva talks because it had

talked itself into a corner from which that kind of total withdrawal was the only escape. The Soviet negotiators had to withdraw because they had no further policy to discuss. Clearly they still have none, since they are throwing the whole weight of their invective and propaganda on the simple proposition that there will be no further negotiations unless and until the western missiles are withdrawn, starting with a decision by the Dutch government not to have them after all.

This suggests that they are not really so concerned about reopening negotiations as they would have us believe.

What they lose from abandoning the opportunity to carry on with the search for some arms control, and to keep an open window on developments in American strategic thinking, they must feel is outweighed by the prospect that their ceaseless invective will indeed undermine President Reagan's chances of re-election and also stimulate west Europeans into thinking they have a constructive role to play somewhere in the middle between east and west. Why else should they adopt a position which automatically and unilaterally prevents their return to the negotiating table?

It is thus dangerous for Europeans to be tempted into honest brokerage. It is based on the false assumption that there is a Soviet sense of insecurity which needs to be placated. That is not the case with cruise and Pershing. From the information available to the west long before last November's installation of the missiles, it was quite clear that there were many elements within the Soviet machine which hoped that there would be no agreement on missiles. Those elements, led by Mr Boris Ponomarev, the propaganda chief, were predominant in Moscow at the time. They were keen to see the west deploy missiles in order to be able to stimulate western peace groups as a means of political destabilisation. In the summer of 1982 it was thus concluded that the Soviet interest would just as well be served by the lack of an

agreement on missiles as by an agreement. Consequently Mr Gromyko failed to endorse the Soviet negotiating team's argument that an agreement - roughly along the lines of the "walk in the woods" formula - would be worth having.

The Soviet military is believed to be less pleased with the lack of an agreement since, for political reasons, it has had to move some of the SS20 missiles into East Germany and Czechoslovakia. The move is not militarily necessary, and exposed the missiles in forward areas which are not as politically reliable as the Soviet Union. Moreover the deployment of nuclear submarines off the United States coast, announced by Marshal Ustinov on Monday, also exposed them to unnecessary risks and is not as militarily satisfactory as retaining them in their defensive fastness in the polar regions.

There is thus something slightly suspect about the concerted Soviet campaign. Perhaps internal tensions have contributed to the violence of Mr Gromyko's language. It is obviously not easy to govern the Soviet Union at this moment of its history, with an entrenched and aging leadership presiding over a system based on brute force and bullying. But the causes - whatever they are - must remain conjecture, since after 65 years one of the great Soviet successes has been to keep its processes still remarkably secret.

Western spokesmen in Moscow should thus, with persistence, press the point that it is only the refusal of the Soviets to resume negotiations which is holding up progress on arms control. Only the Soviets have walked away from negotiations. It would be quite wrong, and ultimately self-defeating, to allow their play to influence the nature of the western arms control position. That should be developed for the moment when negotiations resume. If the Soviets are determined to wait until the outcome of the presidential election becomes more clear, then so be it. In the run of history, that is not long to wait.

TUNNEL VISION

The government yesterday declined to add to the week's Euro-frenzy. Not for Britain the spectacle currently being offered French television viewers of such European monuments as the Parthenon and the Lorelei Rock shot in soft focus against a symphonic sound track, nor, as in Germany, a presentation of circus tumblers attired in the flags of the Ten; not even for us the distant prospect of a white elephant. The government is not offering the Channel tunnel as its marker in the European election stakes: Mr Ridley announced that its interests in a state-sponsored fixed link remains as dim as ever.

So much was expected. The government continues to see no inconsistency between its uncompromising attitude towards this tunnel and its view on motorway extension, Severn road bridges and fourth London airports. Yet the timing of Mr Ridley's response perhaps carried a subliminal message in this week of sanguine professions of Euro-vision. Enough (extensive existing sea and air links with the Continent) is enough.

That said, the government will doubtless study the latest contribution to the semi-submerged debate about the tunnel which has gone on since the Wilson

government abandoned the project a decade ago. The cooperation in the exercise of three French and two British street banks is instructive. (At the very least, the participation of the Banque Indosuez reminds us, with its echoes of de Lesseps and a former Anglo-French consortium, how much private capital could once accomplish.) The bank's study indicates the - by now - technological straightforwardness of tunnelling and the relative cheapness of construction of, say, a twin-bore rail tunnel. But when it turns to the dynamics of financing the project, its usefulness lessens. It becomes a welter of taxpayer indemnities to over-stretched bankers, last-resort public guarantees which shade imperceptibly but easily into a removal of private risk.

Stated as bluntly as yesterday the government's position on the Channel tunnel is clear cut and admirable: it is not a project which warrants the use of public funds. Within that statement might be found a welcome immunity from the financial blindness that sometimes accompanies the sight of large and impressive civil engineering structures such as bridges and dams (and perhaps river bar-

riers). Within that, too, might be a welcome resistance to become embroiled - the Suez example again or Concorde? - in a project which could so easily fall entirely into the public lap however strong the expressions of private capitalist intent may now be.

Yet it would be facile to appraise this project singularly, even if the arithmetic of the calculated rate of return were sounder than in the banks' study. The Channel tunnel ramifies into transport policy as a whole. Projecting a rail-only tunnel makes a statement about surface communications, about British Rail's finances, about rail links with the Kent coast and so on - it was only a few years ago the Foreign Secretary was leading a band of Surrey and Kentish conservators to protest about the impact of a high speed rail link with a proposed tunnel. Even if we were to allow the French with their insouciance about state participation in such projects (and about public debt) to pay for the public guarantees the banks want, a range of domestic policy boxes would have to be opened once again. Neither this study, nor any of the other evidence currently available, makes a case for emulating Epimetheus.

snook at them, of asserting our superiority, and of excusing our expensive failure to understand or control them. It is also an indulgence we cannot afford.

If we, and our government, do not try to understand the motives and stratagems employed by such men, and succeed, they will continue to run rings round us and silly epithets will be little comfort to us.

Yours faithfully,
R. E. KENDALL
University of Edinburgh,
Department of Psychiatry,
(Royal Edinburgh Hospital),
Morningside Park,
Edinburgh.
May 18.

Splitting degrees
From Mr Paul Laxton
Sir, In your issue of May 4 you report that the University of Oxford is to follow other universities in splitting its second-class degrees into an upper and lower division. For one who spends a disproportionate amount of his time in this pointless and arbitrary exercise this is depressing news.

It has to be generally accepted that dividing students at any level into classes or grades is an inexact science and that the classes so awarded give no more than a partial view of the qualities of those who are graded. It is desirable, therefore, to employ a method which is simple,

as clearly understood as possible, and as free of eccentricity as possible.

Universities confer first-class degrees upon a small number who have performed with distinction and, while not all cases are clear cut, the criteria are clear and the cases few enough for full and considered judgment to be applied.

The third class, all but abolished in many university departments, is reserved for those whose performance is below standard, though the border is perhaps even more blurred here.

That leaves us with the second class, far more than three quarters in many subjects. These are graduates who have performed adequately, some more adequately than others. Not only does it seem unnecessary to divide them up, it seems utterly foolish to divide them at, or close to, the mode of the distribution, the point at which they all tend to bunch.

A more arbitrary and eccentric procedure, and one which takes the time and energies of most university examiners, would be hard to devise. Is it not time that it was stopped?

Yours sincerely,
PAUL LAXTON
University of Liverpool,
Department of Geography,
Reeb Building,
PO Box 147,
Liverpool.
May 9.

Veil over a draft European treaty

From Mr Peter Horsfield, QC

Sir, In February of this year the European Parliament approved a "draft treaty establishing the European Union", establishing, that is to say, a unitary supra-national state.

Am I alone in finding it odd, or rather incomprehensible, that in all the welter of advertisements, articles and news items in your paper and elsewhere preparing the public for the European elections on June 14, there appears to be no mention whatever of this draft treaty?

It would be unfortunate if the elections, having voted for their MEPs in June in ignorance of the very existence, let alone the terms, of this draft treaty, were then to be told that their votes constituted a mandate for the signature and ratification of the treaty.

The fact that only four Conservative MEPs voted against the draft treaty, notwithstanding that its terms must be repugnant to the vast majority of the electorate at home, may make it something of an embarrassment to the Government. But that does not justify the present deafening silence.

Yours faithfully,
PETER HORSFIELD,
8 Stone Buildings,
Lincoln's Inn, WC2.
May 18.

Nazi war criminals

From Mr David Winnick, MP for Walsall North (Labour)

Sir, There should indeed be a considerable amount of shame felt by Western governments at the way in which the Nazi mass murderer, Rauff, successfully, and for such a long period, escaped justice.

It is true, as Tom Bower's article stated (May 16), that the British Government had very recently requested the Chilean junta to extradite or expel Rauff to West Germany in order to stand trial for his wartime atrocities. This was, however, done not only much too late in the day, but with a good deal of reluctance.

When I raised the matter in a Commons adjournment debate on March 14 last year I was told by the Junior Foreign Office Minister that the arguments against any official British initiative (i.e., requesting the Chileans to expel him) were compelling. The reason given was that the representations made by the German Federal Republic to the Chilean authorities had been unsuccessful.

Tom Bower refers to the infamous Mengele, who carried out the experiments on inmates at Auschwitz: what would happen if his whereabouts were discovered? Would we be told that there is nothing that can be done to bring him to justice?

Clearly, if Western governments, and particularly the United States, had really wanted to ensure that Rauff was expelled to West Germany, there could have been enough sustained pressure on the junta for them to decide it was not worth allowing him refuge any longer.

Instead of sob stories over Hess, it would be much better if governments of the wartime Allied Powers remembered the pledge given at the time that once the war was over all those responsible for Nazi crimes against humanity would be brought to justice.

Yours etc,
DAVID WINNICK,
House of Commons,
May 16.

'Remarried' by order

From Mr Edward F. Northcote

Sir, The three cases in which Sir John Arnold set aside decrees nisi (report, May 16) really show up the absurdity of our present laws of marriage and divorce. It is likely that the intervention of the Queen's Proctor will have added one whit to the sum of human happiness?

In today's climate of opinion, it would be better for the civil law to recognise marriage as a personal relationship (such as friendship is) for which, as such, it can make no provision.

What good is done by the lawyers going into questions of who slept with whom, whose "unreasonable behaviour" caused what feelings and on which exact day have a couple been separated for two years?

Could they not more productively concentrate their efforts on the interests of children and property questions when relationships do break down, which is most often caused by death.

Yours faithfully,
EDWARD F. NORTHCOTE,
Flat 22,
12a Cambait Road, SW15.
May 16.

Sixth-form studies

From Professor M. F. Oliver

Sir, "The dreadful plunge into a world unrelievedly scientific" (leading article, May 2) from the age of 15 has been identified for a long time as contributing to the quite exasperating lack of awareness, interest and perspective many medical students and young doctors display with regard to our cultural heritage, history and language. But do not lay the blame solely or even principally on dons and the universities.

The aspiration of schools to increase or assure their record for

The leading article yesterday on the European elections stated that Italy would win France in the presidency of the Community. The next presidency will be Ireland's.

Value for money in house improvement

From the President of the Building Employers Confederation

Sir, Two important points stand out from your editorial (May 15) on housing. The Government must be more consistent in its investment programme and the improvement grants system urgently needs to be streamlined.

The threat of a moratorium on the letting of local authority capital contracts is not an idle invention. The relevant Department of the Environment memorandum to local authorities states that "the need to adjust allocations (for 1984/85) ... cannot be ruled out ...".

As Whitehall fudges goes, that is as crystal-clear a signpost that a moratorium is under consideration as one is ever likely to get in advance of the axe actually falling.

Do governments never learn? The sheer ineptitude and chaotic mismanagement involved in such a crude measure as a moratorium or retrospective cutting of budgets are too well known to need re-emphasising. Mrs Thatcher came to power as a radical leader committed to a break from old "stop-go" muddles of previous governments. Such a blatant U-turn to her own capital spending policy of eighteen months ago would seriously dent the credibility of that commitment.

On the more technical, but equally important, question of home improvement grant procedures,

Solvent abuse

From Mr Harry Greenway, MP for Ealing North (Conservative)

Sir, You rightly say, in a generally admirable leading article (May 5), that the most important responsibility to make their children aware of the dangers of solvent abuse lies with parents. This is more easily said than done and I have received three petitions from parents in two years running into many hundreds of signatures asking for help against those who tempt and press their children into glue-sniffing at school, in youth clubs in their groups and gangs and many other areas of youth activity.

The problem has clearly gone beyond the control of many of even the best parents, whilst the feckless ones would not be bothered anyway.

With up to 10 per cent of children in some schools said to be sniffing glue or other solvents, with people unable to keep themselves out of prison because all sense of responsibility has been dissolved out of a mind decayed by glue-sniffing and the rapidly rising number of known deaths from this disease, the law

needs to be strengthened. This is not to say that parental education is not very valuable, too.

The Government is surely right to agree to support legislation designed to outlaw vigorously those who deliberately sell solvents to known abusers, but this will probably not cure completely a growing and hideous problem. It surely cannot be beyond the wit of companies to produce solvents which do not specifically attract sniffers to the joys of inhalation.

Surely suitable chemicals could be added at the production stage which would repel the abuser, whilst remaining unnoticed by the honest user.

The Bill I have recently presented to Parliament on Glue Abuse (Prevention) would force this issue and is needed badly. Little real research has been undertaken by companies in this area and the time has come for all concerned to recognise and meet the serious challenge we face and the fact that it is growing fast.

Yours etc,
HARRY GREENWAY,
House of Commons.

More Russliss

From Mr Adrian Room

Sir, In my letter to you of November 2, 1971, you kindly allowed me to quote some examples of new Russian words borrowed from English.

Now, in 1984, the Russians have produced a further dictionary of new words and your readers may be interested to discover some of the English borrowings made in the 1970s (apart from those quoted in my "interim" letter on the subject of May 31, 1980).

Several of the words relate to entertainment and the mass media, and include *gys-revya* ("ice-revue"), *big-beat* ("big beat"), *rok-opera*, *skvapil* ("sex appeal"), *serial* (as in TV), *spichuel*, *kheppi-end* (as in an American movie) and *ekskapim*.

The world of business is now more prominent, with *disayn* ("design"), *konsums* (marketing), *menedzhment*, *nou-khau* ("know-how"), *supermarket* and *lift-fift*.

As expected, new sports terms also appear, among them *windsurfing* ("windsurfing"), *reying-list* (of a chess-player), *sparring-parinyor*, *fol* ("foul"), *foshyuri-flop* (in the high jump) and, if sport is it, *striking* (in the nude).

Communications and transport have brought the strange-sounding *frivy* ("freeway"), *khayev* ("highway") as well as *lendrover*, *treylor* (behind a vehicle) and *zebra* ("crossing").

Reality of livery
From Mr J. F. Phillips, QC

Sir, Paul Jennings ("Reality night at the Cordwainers' Hall", May 17) is clearly right in saying that "most of us ... know nothing whatever about the City livery companies"; and that is largely the fault of the livery companies themselves. But in declaring that "the time has come for a bit of rethinking" and that "there has to be some continuity ... some correspondence, however slight with reality" it has clearly escaped his notice that this has already been done in the past seven years in the formation of no fewer than 10 new livery companies.

In each case they are based on the original principle of the older companies - that eligibility for membership depended in part on the actual practice of the profession or calling implied by their titles.

Thus the Chartered Surveyors, Chartered Accountants, Chartered Secretaries, Actuaries, Insurers, Arbitrators and, within the last year, obtaining university places, together with the pressures from parents - not always for academic reasons - on their progeny and on their school, are potent factors. Both recognise the disadvantages of early specialization and that the community would be better served if those seeking professional training in universities and technical colleges had a broader sixth-form education.

Entry into medicine is the most extreme example, you allege, where narrow academic attainment at school is more highly valued by university selectors than other qualities. But much of what is really needed before entry into medicine, as distinct from what is taught at school, should be capable of being learnt from relatively short specialized pre-university courses. I suspect this is also true for similar

The clash between conflicting creeds

From the Dean of Durham

Sir, The defence of Professor Jenkins offered by your Religious Affairs Correspondent (May 14) is timely and appropriate. Not only has he based his judgment on what the Bishop-designate actually said, rather than on newspaper reports; he has also articulated a long-standing Anglican freedom in the interpretation of Scripture and the historic creeds.

This freedom was most carefully examined and expressed in the 1938 report entitled *Doctrine in the Church of England*, which stated that "the Church should ... recognise as necessary to the fullness of its own life the activity of those of its own members who carry forward the apprehension of truth by freely testing and criticising its traditional doctrines".

The report also considered the position of an authorised teacher in the Church whose theological opinions diverge, within limits, from traditional teaching. This possibility, too, is accepted, although the teacher is urged to distinguish the two with care and to avoid offending consciences "as far as possible".

Those who are anxious to discover whether Professor Jenkins's views do so diverge should read his considerable work, *The Contradiction of Christianity*, with its attack on narrow intellectualism, its insistence on the connexion between orthodoxy and right practice, and its grounding in Trinitarian theology.

However, even more important than the question of an individual teacher's private but permissible opinions is the question of what Anglicans count as orthodox. I believe that, making the important distinction between truths of faith and their basis in history, Anglican profession and practice have this century come to recognise the essential orthodoxy of those who confess the truth of the Incarnation but are unable to affirm *ex animo* the historicity of the stories of Jesus's birth, death and Resurrection but are unable to affirm the historicity of the stories of the empty tomb.

Whether I am right or wrong in my belief, this is a matter which seems to call for public clarification, not least because of present conversations between Anglicans and others on the nature of authority in the Church.

PETER BAEZL,
The Deanery,
Durham.
May 14.

Liverpool's other crisis

From Mr A. E. R. Goutley

Sir, The eyes of the horticultural world are focused on Liverpool. The Garden Festival is a magnificent achievement. It has cost millions of pounds, and will draw millions of visitors.

Many of those visitors will seek out the internationally famous Liverpool City Botanic Garden at Harthill, just two miles away. Here, the most extensive non-commercial glasshouse complex in the north of England houses one of the finest tropical plant collections in the country, notably orchids derived from five munificent bequests to the city.

It is a tragic irony that just now a sad state of decay is setting in at Harthill. The promise of sorely needed renovation of the glass-houses was cancelled last year, after a change in party political control of the city council. What are our foreign guests to make of whole corridors roped off as unsafe and plastic bags doing duty for broken panes even in the central hall?

The situation is dismaying for the keen and talented young curator, who with a sadly depleted staff strives to preserve Liverpool's heritage. On enquiry I find that within the last few months, the deteriorating conditions at Harthill have resulted in more than 60 species being lost to cultivation there. These include *Brighamia cuneata*, a campanula from Hawaii which is on the endangered species list and is not included in any other collection in the British Isles.

May I appeal, on behalf of the horticultural community, for urgent rescue action.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,
A. E. R. GOUTLEY, Chairman,
The Botanical Society of the
North Western Counties,
55 Brown Street,
Manchester.
May 10.

Sauce for the goose
From Mr T. R. Shaw

Sir, Miners and others "on the clock" forfeit one working day's pay for each day on strike. Teachers are paid an annual salary and therefore forfeit only one three hundred and sixty-fifth part of this in similar circumstances. Is this fair?

Yours faithfully,
T. R. SHAW,
7 Gladstone Street, SE1.
May 11.

Tit for tat

From Mr R. G. Charnley

Sir, Letter received from parents after Wednesday's day of action: "... hasn't done that drawing of a shop front in France, because I wouldn't let her. You chose to go on strike for the day. We didn't ask you, so my husband feels the children should be on strike in sympathy with your cause".

Yours faithfully,
R. G. CHARNLEY,
Head of Lower School,
Rothelaw School,
Jennett Road,
Ardale,
Kent.
May 15.



Dryden ride again?

CONTRARY TO ANY PREVIOUS ADVICE, THERE ARE ONE OR TWO THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT A WINE.

- 1 Do you know that the Muscadet vineyards are the only ones in Brittany to be classified by the Appellation Contrôlée authorities?
- 2 Are you aware that the grape variety grown in this area is the Melon de Bourgogne which has been re-christened as the Muscadet?
- 3 Do you know that it was the monks in the seventeenth century who first brought vines to this area of France?
- 4 Are you familiar with the three areas of the Loire valley: dry wines in the west (Muscadet) and the east (Sancerre) with the sweeter wines in the middle (Anjou)?
- 5 Are you aware that traditionally Muscadet is the first region to be picked every year?
- 6 Do you realise that Muscadet is not only picked young, it is bottled young and is immediately ready for drinking?
- 7 Do you know 'Muscadet sur lie' means bottled directly from the barrels where it has fermented on the lees?
- 8 Do you know that wines of a 'sur lie' nature, if racked will oxidise and flatten?
- 9 Do you ensure that for chilled white wine the glasses are cold?
- 10 Are you aware that it's the natural carbon dioxide in a wine which is responsible for its freshness?
- 11 Do you realise that the different productions of separate communes are almost impossible to find as they are not classified in this area?
- 12 Are you aware that there are three

distinct wine growing areas: Muscadet, Muscadet des Coteaux de la Loire and Muscadet de Sèvre-et-Maine?

- 13 Do you know it's the latter of these areas that is regarded as being the best?
- 14 Do you realise that altogether there are 22,500 acres of Muscadet grown near the mouth of the River Loire?
- 15 Do you know that Appellation Contrôlée not only guarantees the origin of Muscadet but also ensures that high standards are met?
- 16 Do you realise that the Appellation Contrôlée law sets a minimum alcohol level for all AC wines?
- 17 Do you know that Muscadet is one of the few French wines to have a recommended upper limit on its alcoholic strength so it retains its freshness and fruity flavour?
- 18 When the French call a wine 'godelant' are you aware it means a light wine both in terms of taste and strength?
- 19 In the Loire the drier, lighter wines come from the areas with chalky soil, heavier wines from the areas of marl. Did you realise this is because marl stores more heat?
- 20 Do you know that the finer a wine is, the more fragrance it will have?
- 21 Muscadet is the natural accompaniment to shellfish and seafood. Did you realise this is because it's grown close to the Atlantic?
- 22 Muscadet does not need to be decanted. Do you realise this is because it 'throws' little or no sediment?
- 23 The rule is that if Muscadet is to accompany a dish it is the best wine to assist in the cooking. Are you aware of this?
- 24 Are you also aware that if you add wine during the cooking of a dish, it should always be heated first?
- 25 Do you also know that the finer a white wine the less its subtleties should be masked by cold?
- 26 When cooling a white wine, are you aware that one or two hours at most in a refrigerator is sufficient?
- 27 Do you know the rule that a Muscadet wine should not be served as cold as a Blanc de Blancs?
- 28 Are you aware that twenty minutes in a freezer is the maximum for a white wine?

29 Do you realise that good white wines should never be chilled as rapidly as when in a freezer?

30 Do you appreciate that there is no need to wrap a Muscadet in a white napkin unless it's being served from an ice bucket?

31 Are you aware that iced water is more effective than ice cubes alone when cooling a wine?

32 Muscadet being a younger, lighter wine should be drunk before older heavier wines?

33 Do you know the rule that at an all white wine meal, one should start with the more subtle wines and then move on to the more aromatic ones?

34 When serving Muscadet, or other white wine do you always use glasses with a crystal bowl to show off the colour of the wine?

35 Are you aware that both natural sunlight and artificial light are harmful to wine in clear glass bottles?

36 Do you know that the ideal temperature for storing Muscadet and all white wines is 7-12 Centigrade?

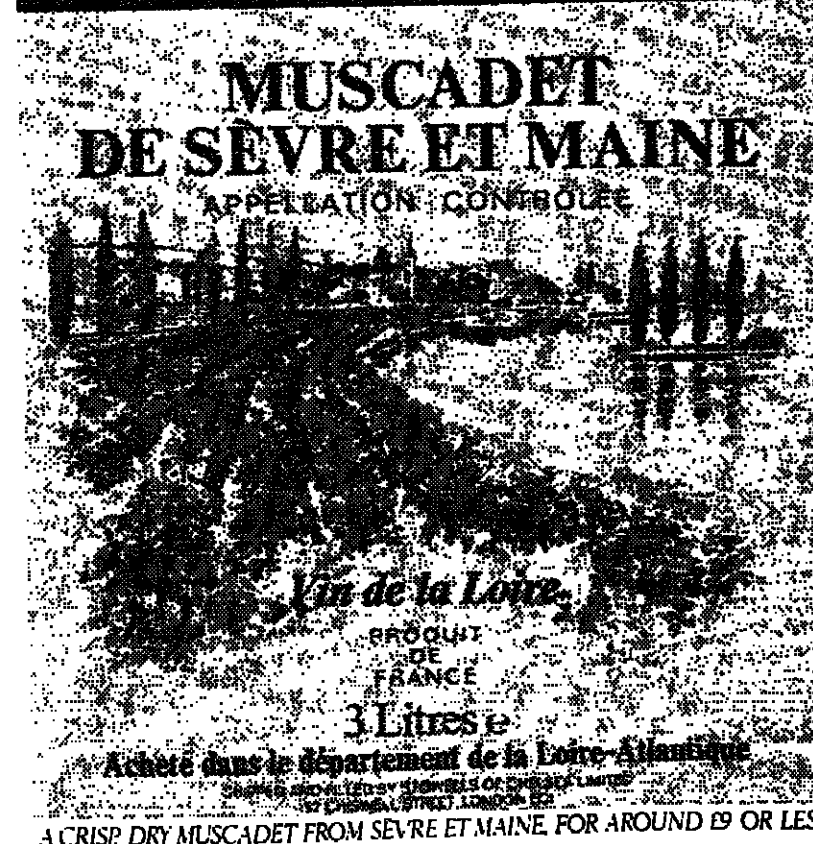
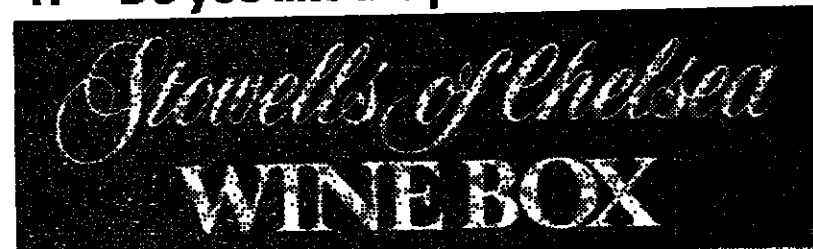
37 Do you always dry wine glasses whilst they are still warm with a lint free cloth, preferably a linen one?

38 Do you always store your wine glasses upright so that air can circulate in the bowl and prevent them becoming tainted?

39 Do you always inspect the cork to ensure that it does not contain weevil?

40 Do you like the crisp, dry flavour of Muscadet?

41 Do you like the price?



Stowells of Chelsea
WINE BOX

STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES


Equities retreat


ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, May 14. Dealings End, June 1. § Contango Day, June 4. Settlement Day, June 11
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FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

Slow handclap for the Great US roadshow

A couple of weeks ago, world stock markets were poised uneasily on a sea-saw. Wall Street was hitting new lows for the year. Tokyo was touching highs, even during Golden Week, the official Japanese holiday period, while London was bobbing uneasily between the two trends at 900 on the FT-30 Share Index.

Such diverse movements were clearly unsustainable indefinitely. But investors in London, buoyed up with talk of bucking the US trend in rates hoped that London would imitate the Japanese model.

Yesterday saw the destruction of those hopes. By noon, Wall Street was down about 14 points, leaving the Dow Jones Average at just over 1,100. Tokyo plunged to an 11-week low, closing at 10,061.

And London? The Financial Times 30 Share Index shed nearly 20 points to close at 856.3.

Rationalizing both the London and Tokyo falls is an easy, albeit fruitless, exercise. In Tokyo, foreigners have been reportedly heavy sellers, and sentiment has been badly hit by the Gulf War which threatens Japan's economy which is heavily dependent on oil imports. In London, package fears have given investors the jitters.

But these explanations pale into insignificance beside the central realization by world investors that perhaps the Great American Roadshow is drawing to a close. President Reagan's greatest electoral asset currently is the Teflon factor - his apparent ability to survive massive political setbacks apparently unscathed. But investor sentiment has manifestly enjoyed the same "non-stick" immunity. Galloping deficits? Booming credit growth? Widening current account deficits? None of these hard economic realities had seemed to count for anything at all during the massive US bull market of the past couple of years.

The collapse and rescue of Continental Illinois Bank has shown conclusively, however, that the economic policies of the Reagan Administration do have fall out and that this can be painful.

The subsequent intervention by the Federal Reserve Bank has left the US central banking system in an agonising dilemma, aptly summed up by Dr Henry Kaufman of Salomon Brothers in his latest *Comments on Credit* bulletin.

"The Federal Reserve faces a serious dilemma. While its position as lender of last resort is undeniably important, the Fed also faces the ongoing - and perhaps conflicting - task of stabilizing the economy, especially since fiscal policy is providing little help. And while the assurances provided to the banking system bolstered confidence in the system, they also increased the risk of aggressive financial decisions that may lead to other excesses."

And Gilts? First, it was "decoupling", then it was the "wall of dividend cash" argument - both were sophistries current in market sentiment and designed to rationalize a possible uplift in gilt prices. But both arguments were shouldered aside yesterday in the bustle to get out of Government stock.

Once it was a sign of investment machismo to hold long dated gilts, willy-nilly. But fashions change. Now it is chic to be bearish of 21st century stock. Finding reasons for the fall is difficult. It is hard to blame the fall on Mr Prior's resignation hint; the miners' strike has been priced into the yield curve for weeks. Money market rates were not noticeably harder yesterday, and US bonds fairly quiescent.

Some blame fell one hint of a July package of measures on the way, after reports in *The Times* yesterday that public spending was moving rapidly ahead,

following April's £2.4 billion borrowing requirement.

Perhaps too the fall disguises what is quite simply a buyers' strike. Given the authorities' need to sell gilts, if money targets are to be attained, and given the acceleration in public sector spending, it is arguable that both the market and the authorities have conspired to smash current yields and find a new level higher up at which stock can be sold.

This argument would certainly tie in with the history of the latest tap, Treasury 9½ per cent, Convertible 1989, issued at 50, and greeted fairly coolly, the issue failed to find buyers, and last week, the Government Broker cut his price to 47½, but surprisingly failed to sell out.

In the event the gamble, if gamble there was, has come unstuck. The tap has now fallen way below the recent tapping price, leaving the authorities burdened with a semi-dog stock.

Conclusive need for open trading

George Bernard Shaw once wrote that if all the economists in the world were laid end to end they would still not reach a conclusion. This is not quite true. On one subject at least - the benefits of an open international trading system - they are almost unanimous.

The perennial political problem is that the benefits protection brings to a beleaguered industry and its workers seem clear. By limiting competition for imports jobs are saved. The costs - higher prices, less competition, restricted consumer choice, ossification of outdated industrial structures are widely diffused, more intangible and inspire no identifiable political constituency.

The Western nations are coming round belatedly to the realization that they must open their markets to the third world if debtor countries are to regain financial stability.

There was an outcry in the United States a couple of weeks ago when the leading motor companies - including Chrysler, Ford and General Motors - announced record profits and record salaries and bonuses for their chief executives in the wake of a "voluntary" export restraint agreement on cars from Japan.

Moore's vision of the future

The speech by Mr John Moore, the financial secretary to the Treasury, at *The Times* Budget briefing yesterday was a lucid and seductive explanation of the ideas behind March's tax-reforming Budget. It also brought with it a vision of future for British businesses in which they can follow the dictates of the market rather than the dictates of the taxman.

Mr Moore believes that the lower tax bite on profits will stimulate companies to undertake more innovative expenditure and that it will make Britain an attractive place for both domestic and overseas investors.

Such assertions, as befitt any radical new departure, remain to be tested in practice. There will, of course, be distortions in the transitional period to the new system. One of yesterday's speakers, Mr John Carrell, a partner of Stephens Harwood, referred to an "Indian summer" for traditional tax shelters like leasing, film financing and oil exploration because present allowances will be available for offset against the lower corporation tax rates that rule in the future.

But with these and other caveats Mr Moore is surely right that the market is the best judge of investment allocation

Banks fear debtors' cartel over \$340bn Latin loans

From Bailey Morris, Washington

Fears were growing among international bankers in Washington last night that Latin America is about to form a "debtors' cartel" with news that Brazil's Central Bank president had slipped in for closely-guarded talks.

Senior Alfonso Pastore was having private talks with officials of British and American banks yesterday, after a week-end communiqué from the debt-laden nations which bankers believe could signal a new confrontation over repayments.

Both the International Monetary Fund and the Brazilian Embassy refused to comment on the talks, saying Senior Pastore was on a private visit after giving an address at the University of Virginia.

But diplomatic sources said that arrangements had been made by the Banco de Brazil in Washington for Senior Pastore to meet the commercial bankers who believe increasingly that their Latin American loans, estimated at \$340 billion, are at risk.

Commercial bankers were anxious to meet Senior Pastore, whom they regard as both

Debts of the big Latin American borrowers (\$ billion)

Argentina	44
Brazil	93
Chile	18
Mexico	89
Peru	12
Venezuela	34

politically moderate and influential in the region, to relay their concern to other debtor nations over the fast-approaching June 30 deadline facing American banks, which must then decide whether to declare some delinquent loans as non-performing.

The meeting was urged in a communiqué from the Presidents of Argentina, Brazil, Mexico and Colombia, who said the recent rise in interest rates was straining their ability to repay debts. They demanded both a reduction in rates and longer repayment periods and said these and other "satisfactory solutions for all involved" would be discussed at the "debtors' summit".

Some bankers fear that Argentina, which had earlier refused to meet scheduled loan repayments, is pressing other

Latin American debt exposure of five biggest US banks (\$ billion)

	Total assets	Estimated exposure
Citicorp	134.7	10.2
Bank of America	121.2	7.2
Chase	81.9	6.2
Manhattan	64.3	6.4
Manufacturers	58.0	4.2
Hanover		
J.P. Morgan		

debtor nations to take similar action to increase the region's bargaining power with international banks.

Until recently, there had appeared little support for this bankers' nightmare. Mexico, which had already secured easier terms from commercial banks, was anxious to maintain a good credit rating both for itself and the entire Latin American region.

But this was before the recent rise in US prime lending rates from 12 per cent to 12.5 per cent. It put new and some say, intolerable strains on Latin American nations whose foreign debt repayments float with movements in the US prime.

The one half of a point rise in the prime rate two weeks ago, for example, added \$200m a year to Argentina's payments, and an extra \$300m for Mexico, \$350m for Brazil, and \$150m for Venezuela.

This came at a time when the political will to continue economic austerity measures, prescribed by the International Monetary Fund, has been strained severely by riots in São Paulo, Santiago, Lima, Rio de Janeiro and the Dominican Republic.

The upshot was the unprecedented call over the weekend for an emergency meeting of debtor countries.

Although the tone of the communiqué was moderate, it nevertheless marks the first time Latin American nations had banded together to seek better terms.

"Our nations cannot indefinitely accept the hazards to democracy and development posed by existing repayment terms," the leaders said.

President Augusto Pinochet of Chile, which owes \$20 billion yesterday expressed support for the call for a regional meeting to discuss renegotiation of foreign debt.

Small firms prepare for SE battle

By Philip Robinson

Small and medium-sized stockholding firms are now marshalling forces to battle for the retention of the stock markets single-capacity system without which they see business in second-line stocks disappearing.

After a public meeting attended by more than 150 people last week, the brokers have now set up a seven-man committee which is likely to meet this week to elect a chairman and plan a strategy.

The move comes as the Stock Exchange tells Professor Laurence "Jim" Gower that it may need legal backing to police the market once powerful outside financial interests take over Stock Exchange firms.

The list of candidates sympathetic to the views of small broking firms is beginning to grow and it is likely that for the first time in 20 years, an election will take place on June 24 for 13 places on the ruling council of the Exchange.

The current list is about five long and includes Mr Jeremy Lewis of stockbrokers Seymour Pierce, whose outspoken reservations on the Stock Exchange reforms gave the market a focal point to start the rearguard action.

Another likely candidate is Mr Geoffrey King of Savory Miln & Co. He is also part of the "rebels" committee, which comprises Mr Derek Greenwood of Seymour Pierce, Mr John Harkness of Earnshaw Hayes, Mr Martin Walters of Schavieren, Mr John East of Margrets & Addenbrooke, Mr Keith Goldie-Morrison of Keith Bayley Rogers & Co, and Mr Cameron Morphet of Illingworth Henriques.

Mr Greenwood said yesterday: "We realize time is not on our side but feel that many council members who are making the policy decisions which affect us have already signed up a future with outside partners."

So far, about 18 member firms have linked with non-members of the Stock Exchange to beef up their working capital



John Moore: key speech on tax changes

Key Treasury speech

Mr John Moore, the Financial Secretary to the Treasury, was the principal speaker at yesterday's *Times* 1984 Budget briefing held at the Dorchester Hotel in London.

The conference was chaired by Mr Kenneth Fleet, Executive Editor, Finance and Industry at *The Times*.

It included speeches by Mr Trevor Swete, a director of Hill Samuel, merchant bank, Mr Tim Congdon, economist at the stockbrokers L Messel &

THE TIMES 1984 BUDGET BRIEFING

Co. Mr Mark Powell, a director of the stockbrokers Laing & Crickshank; Mr John Carrell, a partner with the lawyers Stephenson Harwood and Mr Ian Hayes, a partner with Armitage & Norton the accountants. Conference reports, pages 20, 21

Job cuts confirmed at bank

By Wayne Lintott

The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation confirmed yesterday that it was scaling down its British retail banking operations and would be making 300 of its staff redundant.

At the same time, Hongkong Bank's American subsidiary, the Marine Midland Bank, the 13th largest in America, is to downgrade its Paris branch office to a representative office. The surplus staff will join Hongkong Bank's Paris branch.

The bank's announcement said that it had decided to concentrate its efforts on commercial banking, following the restructuring of its Wardley merchant banking subsidiary at the end of 1983.

Under what the bank termed "a reorganization" the commercial bank business will become more aggressive in seeking small-to-medium sized corporate clients and will seek to further relationships with multinational companies.

The reorganization follows a review of profitability potential in Britain and the bank has decided to close its Birmingham branch.

Executives of the bank declined to talk to *The Times* yesterday after our report on the issue.

"Our objective at the Halifax will be to meet the demands of borrowers - to bring mortgage rationing to an end, once and for all"



Richard Harbry, Chairman of Halifax Building Society.

Speaking to members at the Society's 1984 Annual General Meeting held on 21st May 1984, the Chairman drew attention to the following:

Growth and Lending

♦The Society's assets have increased by £2,710 million to £16,780 million in the year ended 31st January 1984.

♦This was the fastest rate of growth of any of the top five building societies, and enabled the Halifax to lend 24% more than in the previous year.

♦The Society lent to 187,000 new borrowers in 1983-84, half as many again as in 1981-82. 20,000 loans were made on new houses, and 43,000 on pre-1919 dwellings.

♦The Halifax now has in excess of 10 million investing and borrowing accounts.

♦In 1983-84 £230 million was allocated to help with inner city regeneration and other special schemes.

Interest Rates

♦Building societies are now deciding individually what rates to pay their investors and what to charge their borrowers. The overall effect of this will be to raise average rates, both for investors and borrowers, but it will also produce a much better flow of funds for new borrowers.

♦Our own objective at the Halifax will be to meet the demands of borrowers - to bring mortgage rationing to an end, once and for all.

♦The decision by the Inland Revenue to tax the profit on the realisation of gilt-edged securities will, we think, result in a mortgage rate a quarter per cent higher than would otherwise have been the case.

Administration

♦Our management expense ratio improved last year. However, the range, scale and level of service offered by the Halifax is quite different from that of some smaller societies, and its operating costs are therefore higher. Its management is every bit as efficient.

♦The introduction of automated teller machines has been highly successful. We now have 106 and by the end of 1984 there will be 250 machines, offering Cardcash facilities in every major population centre.

♦We opened 57 new branches in 1983-84, and we now have over 640 branches and more than 2,000 full time agencies. All of these outlets are needed to deal with the ever-growing demand for our services.

Prospects for 1984-85

♦The Halifax plans to lend £4.75 billions in its current financial year. This is 27% more than last year.

♦Our interest rates will remain highly competitive, as will the terms and conditions of our various savings schemes.

♦We are working hard to identify and meet the future demands of our members.

HALIFAX
The world's No1 building society.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Lombard in new joint venture

Lombard North Central, National Westminster's finance house subsidiary, is stepping up its involvement with the motor industry.

Lombard is paying £16m for an 80 per cent share stake and £5m of loan stock in Wholesale Vehicle Finance, which finances vehicle stocks for BL distributors.

BL will pay £2.6m for the remaining 20 per cent. Lombard already owns 80 per cent of both Austin Rover Finance and Jaguar Car Finance, with BL as minority shareholder.

♦ J SAINSBURY, the supermarket chain, has increased pretax profits for the 52 weeks to March 24 to £130m from £100.7m. Sales including VAT rose from £2,315.8m to £2,688.5m. The final dividend of 5.1p makes 7.5p for the year (5.85p).

♦ DISAPPOINTING half-yearly figures are reported by Ranks Hovis McDougall, the food processing company, with profits down from £25.9m to £23.3m.

♦ ICL, the British computer manufacturer, has reported pretax profits of £18.3m for the half year to March 3, up from 16.7m.

♦ A REPORT from the Office of Fair Trading on whether the Lombar move to elect 12 directors to the House of Fraser board is in breach of undertakings, has gone to the Department of Trade and Industry, and a statement is expected this week.

Britoil places £17m contracts

Contracts worth £17m and securing 300 jobs for almost two years have been placed in Britain by Britoil for two modules for its Clyde oil production platform in the North Sea.

They have been placed with Sea and Land Pipelines, of Lowestoft, Suffolk.

Further module contracts are about to be placed in addition to the £30m contract for the platform jacket which will be built near Inverness.

In total an estimated £750m worth of contracts will be placed for the platform.

Indications for recovery

By Frances Williams, Economics Correspondent

The latest set of cyclical indicators, which track the course of the British economy, continue to suggest that the recovery will be sustained well into 1985, though the longer leading index, which looks about 12 months ahead, showed some hesitation last month.

After rising fairly steadily since last autumn the longer leading index was little changed in April, reflecting the recent rise in interest rates and a more restrained increase in business confidence shown in the latest quarterly survey by the Confederation of British Industry.

But the index has been boosted by rising share prices and higher housing starts. The shorter leading index, which looks about six months ahead, shows more definite signs of faltering but has, in the past, proved a less reliable guide than the longer leading index to changes in activity.

After falling in February, the shorter leading index has remained little changed, depressed by a drop in consumer credit and new car registrations from record levels, partly offset by industry's lengthening order books.

Although another \$50m has to be approved by Congress, that sum seems assured as the price of meeting the storm of foreign complaints. "That is what the states would get in exchange for not using unitary tax," Mr Rosapepe said.

"They are also demanding that subsidiaries of foreign companies operating in the US should provide a 30-state spread-sheet on their incomes in America. This is to discourage companies from telling different stories to different states - which has been a very big problem indeed for individual states trying to assess taxes."

Unitary reform could lead to tougher checks

Companies 'face US tax clamp'

By John Lawless

Foreign companies with American subsidiaries will face twice as many tax inspectors investigating their worldwide deals if unitary tax is scrapped, a Washington lobbyist acting for 31 states will tell British businessmen tomorrow.

Mr James Rosapepe, Washington representative of the Multi-state Tax Commission (MTC), is to speak at a seminar on unitary taxation in London organised by the American Tax Institute.

Unitary taxation has provided the main fiscal thorn in relations between the United States and, predominantly, the advanced industrial countries for the past year. Governments have been hinting that they would retaliate by similarly taxing the operations of US multinationals represented in their countries on their wor-

ldive operations - while industrialists have repeatedly given warnings that they will not invest in states applying unitary tax.

US Treasury working group appeared to defuse the international row this month by proposing that the dozen states applying the tax should take a "water's edge" approach of only taxing multinationals on the basis of their US operations.

Mr Rosapepe said the states had accepted this. The change now only requires Congressional approval. However, he said that the states had demanded much tougher surveillance of all multinational operations "as a prerequisite for adopting water's edge."

Most foreign companies are unaware that the Treasury Secretary, Mr Donald Regan, has promised to double, within

THE TIMES 1984 BUDGET BRIEFING

● Revenue reform

● Easier loans

● End of a trend

KEYNOTE SPEECH: JOHN MOORE

Broader tax base and lower rates are vital

This Government believes that a free market tends to produce the most efficient allocation of resources. That is our starting point, and a number of conclusions about what sort of tax system we should have follow from it.

First, though taxation is an important instrument of economic policy, it should apply in such a way that it neither kills off economic activity, nor in general promotes one sort of activity in preference to another. The tax system should be neutral, or to put that in a still clearer way, the economy should function as much as possible as though taxation did not exist. At the same time we want to create a simpler tax system, one which is easier to understand. People and businesses should respond to stimuli within the system, not to stimuli imposed by the Government.

From the point of view of neutrality, the rates of tax as well as the tax base are important. Some categories of people are in the tax net, but others are left out, then that itself imposes a distortion, a position which is less than neutral. Economic activity will of course

tend to shift towards the areas exempt from tax. If tax rates are high, then even if they are broadly and neutrally applied, they will tend to choke off economic activity.

So these are the main principles we start with: neutrality and simplicity, a broad tax base and as low rates of tax as possible.

Today I wish to concentrate on the taxation of business, and show the thinking which lies behind our Budget proposals. In particular, I wish to concentrate on the proposed changes in corporation tax rates and capital allowances. It is these that are the most far-reaching and radical of the proposals directly affecting business.

The old system

Let me remind you of the position before the Budget. Our nominal rates of tax on companies were very high. A "small companies" rate of 38 per cent. A main rate of 52 per cent. And an even higher marginal rate - 55 per cent - for companies moving from the small companies rate onto the main rate.

At the same time as some

Mr Nigel Lawson's first Budget is proving to be a milestone in the history of fiscal policy. But how should the businessman and the investor react? The Times

companies laboured under high nominal rates of tax, many were able to take advantage of the rules to shelter their profits from corporation tax entirely. Only one third of companies regularly pay corporation tax, and a third never pay it. The revenue yield to the Government was relatively modest: in 1983-84 about £4 billion in total from mainstream corporation tax, compared with £6 billion from petroleum revenue tax alone, £31 billion from income tax and £15 billion from VAT.

The paradox of high rates of tax and relatively low yields is explained by two factors in particular. Low profitability in British business. And a series of very generous allowances - particularly on capital investment - built into the tax system.

The UK system before Budget day offered probably the

1984 Budget Briefing was held yesterday to give leading businessmen a forum in which they could discuss that and relative subjects. A full house heard speeches

most generous tax subsidies in the world to certain types of investment. It was assumed that this would mean more and better investment in the UK than in competing nations. Yet this has not been the case. Disturbingly, the assumption that tax incentives meant better investment has been proved alarmingly wrong. There are many reasons why the UK has made poor use of capital but it is hard to escape the conclusion that a tax regime which subsidized and encouraged projects with low returns has been an important contributory factor.

In summary, under the pre-budget system, investment decisions were frequently governed by the tax rules - and hence by the professional tax adviser and, indirectly, the politician - rather than by the

from leading figures in the City and the keynote was set by Mr John Moore, Financial Secretary to the Treasury. These are extracts from some of the speeches.

businessman. And the tax adviser and the politician, were pushing business towards investment decisions with a poor rate of return - often investment for its own sake - and in the process probably adding to the country's major problems of poor competitiveness and high unemployment.

The Budget proposals This brings me to the company tax strategy on which the Government is embarked. I would make two preliminary points. First, the proposed changes - though radical - work within the existing imputation system of corporation tax. Secondly, we wanted to set out the changes clearly over a number of years both to reduce uncertainty and ease the transition. This marked a considerable departure from conventional budgetary decisions.

The result will be - is

which are normally taken only one year in advance. But the medium-term approach to policy is a distinguishing characteristic of this Government - familiar in a number of areas from the MTFS to the privatization programme.

Central to the company tax proposals is the reduction of the high nominal rates of corporation tax. It is only companies which make profits - and cannot shelter these profits - which pay tax, and so high rates of tax tend to penalise the successful. The corporation tax system in effect has until now been taking away from the profitable and using it to subsidize investment by a wide range of companies, whether successful or not. It has imposed a higher tax burden on companies investing in labour than those investing in plant and equipment. And it has diverted some of our best talent into even more imaginative ways of obtaining the benefits of the over generous relief. That is the curious money-go-round which our proposals aim to eliminate.

The result will be - is

designed to be - to encourage profitable companies by allowing them to keep a very much larger share of their profits. This Government is happy to put the word "profit" back into the national vocabulary.

Our proposals are designed to reduce or eliminate the distortions in the system. First and foremost, by abolishing initial and first year allowances for capital investment, we bring the tax treatment of capital assets in general more closely in line with a typical depreciation profile. The new system, when fully in place, will thus treat fixed assets in a more even handed manner. Companies will be encouraged to find projects which are commercially efficient rather than merely tax efficient. This means, of course, that many investments will need to pass a stiffer test than under the old system. But while the cost of capital will rise at the margin because of the reduction in allowances, some highly profitable projects will do better under the new system because of the reduction in the rate of corporation tax.

The proposed changes in capital allowances are designed to reduce the discrimination between different assets and sectors, leaving the market to determine the most efficient allocation of resources between them. They are certainly not intended as an attack on manufacturing industry, an allegation which has been made by the Government's opponents. Rather they remove the disadvantage which other sectors have suffered under.

Secondly, reducing the rates of corporation tax will deal in large measure with another unwelcome distortion: that in favour of debt against equity. The bias arises because interest

companies should benefit very considerably from the new system, and that is without considering the continuing benefit from the abolition of the National Insurance Surcharge.

Our businesses do not live in an isolated world and it is important to assess the changes proposed against company tax systems applying in other countries. The main rate at which company profits are taxed will be significantly lower in the UK than in any of our major competitors. For example, in France the rate is 50 per cent; in West Germany, 56 per cent; in the Netherlands 48 per cent; in the United States 46 per cent; and in Japan, 42 per cent. By 1986 - on the conventional assumption that scrap value is about 10 per cent - expenditure on plant and machinery in the UK will be written off against tax within about eight years and the write-off period for industrial buildings will be 25 years. In competitor countries the comparison varies between one sort of asset and another but, in general, our write-off periods will be comparable with those overseas. So I believe the overall effect is to make Britain an attractive place for both domestic and overseas investors.

Peroration We see the far-reaching changes in corporation tax as being of great significance in our economic development. Taken in the context of the stable financial framework provided by our MTFS, the changes are addressed to some of Britain's most intractable problems: low profitability in business, lack of competitiveness and high unemployment. Our solutions are radical and much more than routine tinkering with the tax system on a care and maintenance basis. They should be seen as part of a wider strategy of tax reform. They are supported in this Budget by other changes which will be of benefit to businesses by encouraging markets and improving the flow of finance to the corporate sector. The corporation tax changes themselves follow a very careful analysis of the operation of the tax system and a thorough reappraisal of its rationale and economic effects.

I believe the new regime offers business a tremendous opportunity to plan with certainty for the future and to take decision-making back to the boardroom, away from the tax planners, and from Whitehall and Westminster. In the past governments have been legitimately criticized for ignoring success and bolstering failure. This Budget marks a break from that, towards a dynamic economy with worthwhile incentives for profitability and success.

Tory proposals are designed to reduce distortions in the system

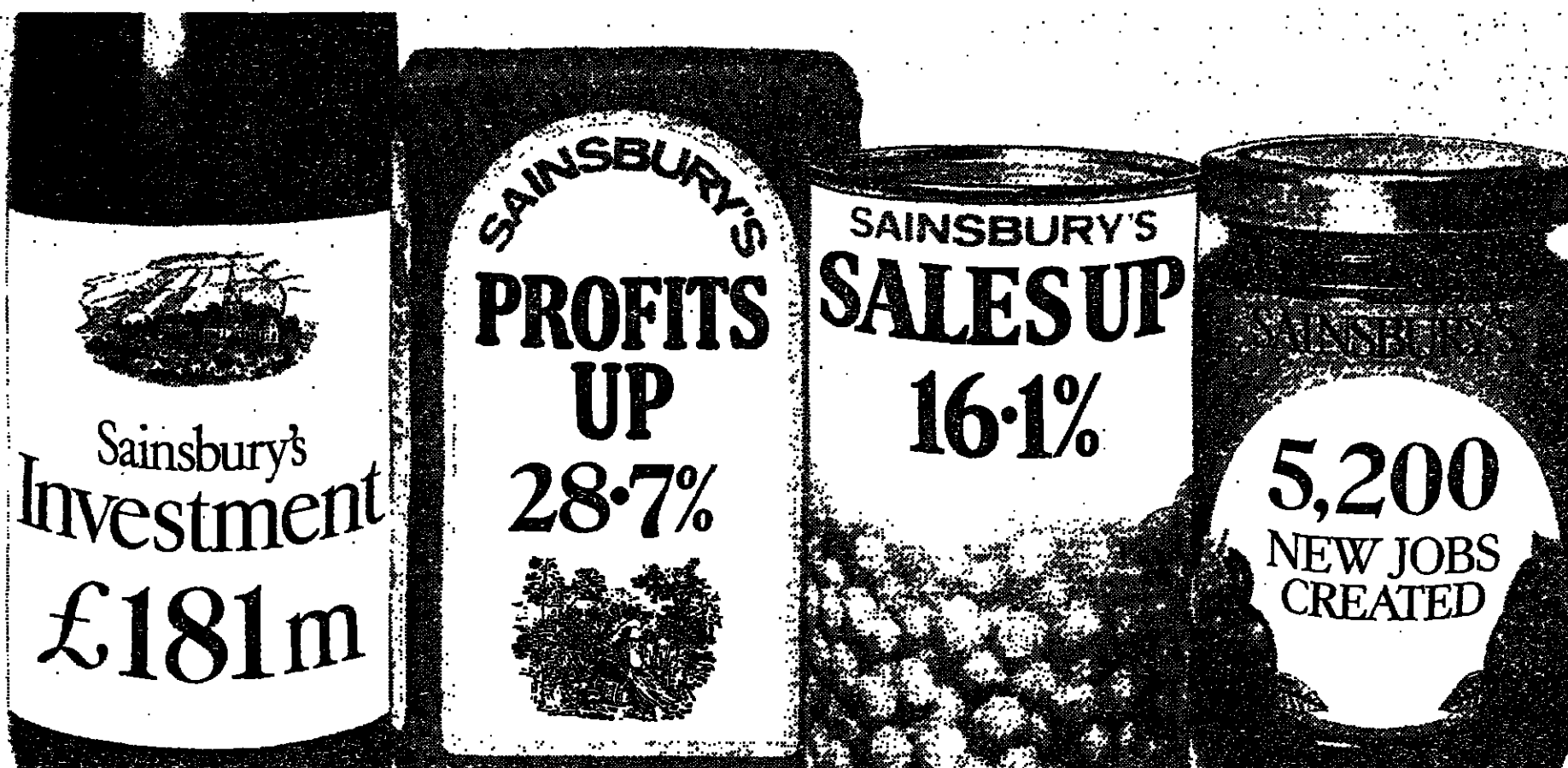
payments are fully deductible in arriving at taxable profits, while dividends are only partially offset - via the imputation system - leaving corporation tax on distributed profits payable to the extent that corporation tax exceeds 30 per cent. So from now on the bias is eliminated for companies paying the small profits rate and, for other companies, the bias will be small once the main rate has dropped to 35 per cent.

Handling the transition to a new tax system is always difficult, and of key importance. We thought it essential in making changes to give British business certainty for the future. That is why the new rates - 30 per cent for small companies and the reduction in four stages to 35 per cent for the main rate - are built into this year's Finance Bill. Phasing out the first year and initial capital allowances over the same period as the reduction in the main rate of corporation tax seems to us a sensible and practical way to proceed. Over the period to 1988-89 as a whole the corporation tax changes by themselves are expected to be revenue neutral. Once the transitional period is over, I am confident that the effect of the measures will certainly not be to increase the tax burden on industry. Indeed in the 1990s when the effect of the corporation tax changes have fully worked through,

Base Lending Rates

ABN Bank	9%
Barclays	9 1/4%
BCCI	9 1/4%
Citibank Savings	9 1/4%
Consolidated Credit	9 1/4%
Continental Trust	9%
C. Hoare & Co	9%
First Bank	9%
Midland Bank	9 1/4%
Nat Westminster	9%
TSB	9%
Williams & Glyn's	9 1/4%
Citibank NA	9 1/4%

† Mortgage Base Rate.
* 7 day deposits on terms of under £10,000. 6m: £10,000 up to £250,000. 9m: £250,000 and over. 7 1/4%.



SAINSBURY'S

Excellent growth maintained

* The Group profit before tax and profit sharing rose by 28.7% to £138.1 million, with the retail net margin reaching a record level of 4.91% and sales increasing by over 16%. In ten years the volume of goods we sell has more than doubled and we now serve six million customers every week.

* Earnings per share advanced by 32.8%, making the ten-year compound growth 27.6% per annum or, adjusted for inflation, 12.9% per annum. A one for one capitalisation issue is proposed.

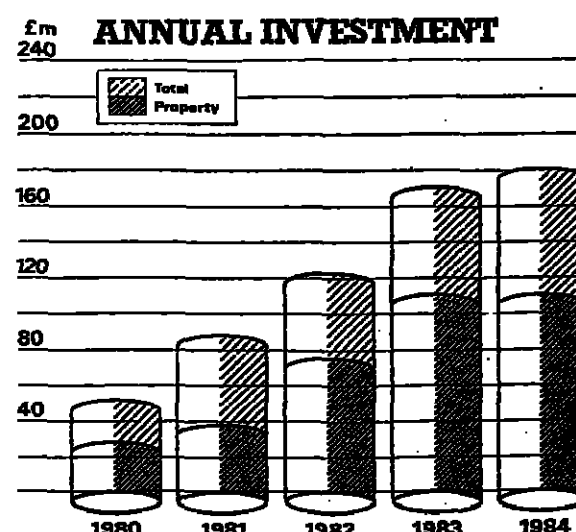
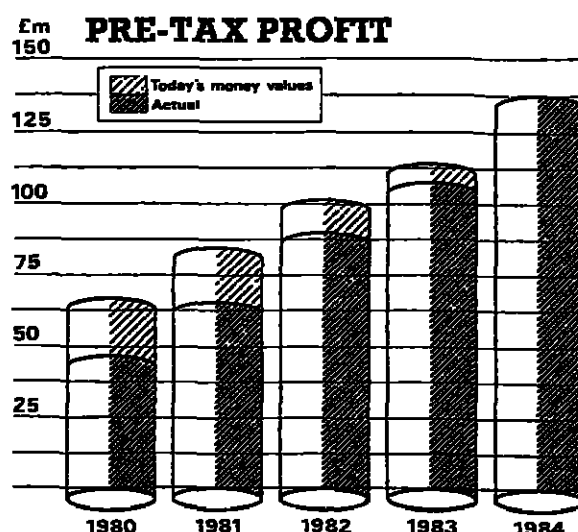
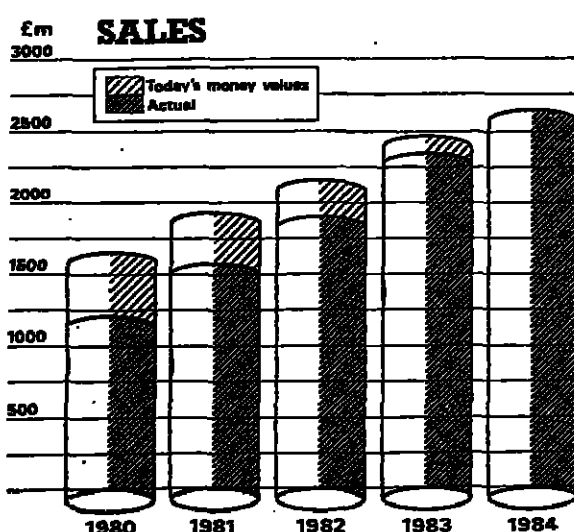
* The Group's investment totalled £181 million. The fifteen new supermarkets have a total sales area of 383,000 square feet which is the largest sales area opened in any one year.

RESULTS	1984	1983	%
£ million	52 weeks to 24th March	52 weeks to 26th March	increase
Sales	2,688.5	2,315.8	16.1
Retail Profit	132.1	101.9	29.6
Net Margin	4.91%	4.40%	
Associates	6.0	5.4	12.6
Profit before Tax and Profit Sharing	138.1	107.3	28.7
Profit Sharing	8.1	6.6	22.1
Tax	41.0	27.4	
Earnings per Share - fully taxed	18.86p	14.20p	32.8
Dividend per Share - net for year	7.50p	5.85p	28.2

* Nearly 30,000 staff will benefit from profit sharing and receive in cash or shares the equivalent of about three and a half weeks' pay. With the continued success of the employee share schemes, 11,000 staff, representing over a quarter of all our shareholders, now own Company shares.

* SavaCentre profits rose 18% on sales up by 11%. The average weekly sales per hypermarket exceeded £750,000. Homebase traded strongly and now has fourteen stores open.

* The Company was honoured by the Food Marketing Institute of America when, on 7th May 1984, it was presented with their new International Award as "The Outstanding Supermarket Chain".



Good food costs less at Sainsbury's... every year.

MANAGEMENT AGENCY & MUSIC P.L.C.

To the Ordinary Shareholders

INTERIM STATEMENT

The unaudited Profits of the Group before taxation for the six months ended 31st January 1984 amounted to £216,122 compared with £204,255 for the corresponding six months last year.

	31st January 1984	31st January 1983
Turnover	£16,916,770	£14,782,671
Pre-Tax Profit	816,168	664,385
Corporation Tax at 48.25% (50%)	396,388	320,778
Interim Dividend	422,774	428,104
Unappropriated Profit Carried Forward	£166,070	£207,899
Earnings per Ordinary Share	8.86p	8.86p

Five Pence has today declared an interim dividend of 2.5 pence per share (1983 - 2.5p) which will be paid on 15th June 1984 to shareholders registered at the close of business on 24th May 1984.

The Board is of the opinion that these interim results are in line with their forecast made in the last Chairman's Statement.

BASF Aktiengesellschaft

Copies of the 1983 annual report are available from

Kleinwort, Benson Limited, 20 Fenchurch Street, London EC3P 3DB

S. G. Warburg & Co. Ltd., 30 Gresham Street, London EC2P 2EB

BASF Aktiengesellschaft D-6700 Ludwigshafen

BASF

End of a trend

e vital

THE TIMES 1984 BUDGET BRIEFING

THE BANKER'S VIEW: TREVOR SWETE

Easing the way for long-term finance

Budget changes which may affect company financing, include:

- The exemption of capital gains on qualifying corporate bonds in line with gifts.
- The tax treatment of the "interest" element in deep discount bonds.
- Relief to companies for discounts on bills of exchange accepted by banks.
- The payment of interest on Eurobonds without deduction of tax.
- The extension of relief on incidental costs of obtaining loan finance.

These measures are chiefly aimed at making it easier to obtain longer-term loan finance and so for companies to raise money without increasing the money supply. Their impact is not expected to be great however as the treasury estimates the total cost to the Revenue as negligible in 1984-85 and only £1m to £2m in a full year in most cases. The exception is the £15m estimated cost for deep discounted bonds, which is said to be "highly uncertain".

Some £323m was raised by industrial and commercial companies in loan stock in 1983 after 6 years in the wilderness when the amounts of loan stock had been reduced. Financial companies raised £195m in 1983 after £280m in 1982.

The capital gains tax treatment on qualifying corporate loan stocks will certainly make them more attractive to taxpayers and there is an expectation that this sector will pick up further.

The overall picture which emerges on the tax treatment of the various types of fixed interest issues competing for investors' funds is however, still complex. In particular, some of the better rated stocks, namely local authorities and most build issues, will not qualify for capital gains tax exemption. The market will have to price the better security against the worse tax treatment.

In the corporate bond sector, finance directors will be weighing up the benefits of being able to give lenders up to half a per cent a year by way of a tax-free capital gain against the disadvantages of this "gift" not being deductible for tax in his company's hands.

The economics of deep discounted bonds look even more attractive despite falling into the capital gains tax net, in that it represents one of the few opportunities for an investor to

"tax-plan" his income whereas the issuer can deduct the effective interest annually.

Clearly an additional attraction to the corporate treasurer is the ability to build in a low or even negative annual cash flow profile to the borrowing. Existing issues of preference shares have been badly hit by the Budget. The principal investors in these shares were corporations paying both corporation tax and dividends. They could effectively service £100 of dividend paid from £100 of preference share dividend received, whereas they required £147 of interest to be received from loan stocks to service the same £100 of dividends.

The reduction of corporation tax, if no changes are made to advanced corporation tax, will dramatically narrow this gap.

The £46 differential required to service £100 of dividends before the Budget narrows to £28. The converse of this is of course that the paying company can afford to increase the dividends on new preference shares correspondingly to maintain the effective differential.

The payment of interest without the deduction of tax makes it unnecessary for companies to set up separate overseas finance subsidiaries to make such issues and so reduces the cost involved.

Only big British companies are likely to be involved and most of these have such subsidiaries already, so a significant increase in the number of Eurobond issues by British companies is not to be expected.

After the transition period when investment is likely to be boosted to benefit from the remaining first year allowances, a more significant change in the balance of financing is expected. At present these companies are very liquid, but as the growth of the economy slows down, some rundown of liquidity is to be expected.

If the Government does succeed in holding the public sector borrowing requirement steady at about £7 billion from this year, there will be less competition for funds from the public sector. In the post-Budget circumstances, I would expect an upward trend in the shares of equities and longer term loans as sources of finance.

For industrial and commercial companies, equities might provide 10 per cent and loan stock 5 per cent of total funds by the end of the decade.

Trevor Swete is of Hill Samuel, the merchant banker.



Four of the speakers: Congdon, economist



Trevor Swete: merchant banker



Ian Hayes: City of London accountant



John Carrell: partner in a City solicitors

THE ECONOMIST'S VIEW: TIM CONGDON

Winds of change from a taxation revolution

The 1984 Budget represented a minor revolution in British tax policy. It attempted to introduce consistency, logic and common sense to the design of the tax system. After years of accumulating inconsistency and illogicality, this was a welcome change.

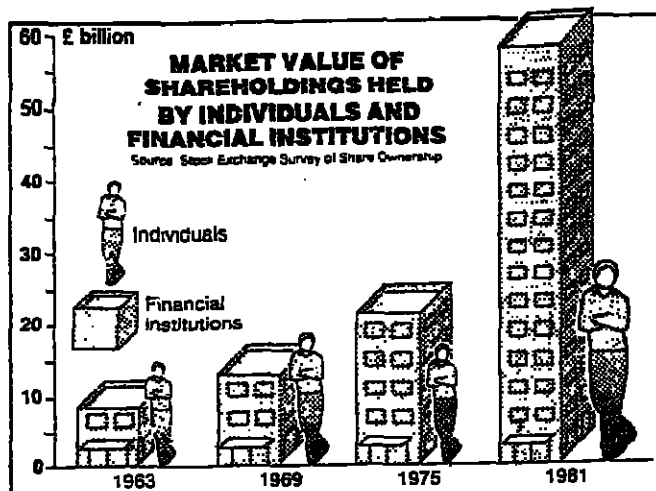
The worst inconsistencies developed over a long period between the mid-1950s and mid-1970s, and were largely a response to an emerging national inferiority complex about Britain's low growth rate. The unsatisfactory growth performance was attributed to inadequate levels of investment. The Government could do little directly about this, but it could approach the problem indirectly by giving fiscal incentives to investment. These incentives eventually became far too generous, causing distortions and over-investment. They also created difficulties because of conflict with other policy objectives. Two conflicts, in particular, need to be highlighted.

First, the subsidization of capital had to be financed by heavier taxation of labour. The main investment incentive was a system of capital allowances which enabled companies to deduct investment expenditure from their corporation tax bills. In 1973, it became possible to deduct in the first year 100 per cent of spending on plant and equipment. In 1975, the total corporation tax liabilities of all industrial and commercial companies amounted to a mere £101m and in 1976, to £178m.

These negligible sums left a gaping hole in the Inland Revenue's tax receipts. It was filled by substantial increases in income tax, mostly because thresholds were not raised in line with inflation, and the introduction of a national insurance surcharge. Higher income tax discouraged workers from seeking employment and the national insurance surcharge discouraged companies from giving it. The end result was that the fiscal promotion of investment seriously aggravated unemployment.

Secondly, investment was favoured because it would lead to a larger capital stock, and hence, to higher productivity. But, in the cause of greater equality, heavy taxation, particularly of the wealthy, was introduced. The paradox that the tax system was intended both to enlarge the amount of wealth in the country and to stop anyone becoming wealthy.

The hostility to wealthy



individuals was, however, neutralized to some extent by favourable tax treatment for savings institutions, particularly pension funds and insurance companies. In consequence the beneficial ownership of equities became increasingly institutionalized. In 1963, persons owned in their own names almost 55 per cent of shares on the London stock market, and insurance companies and pension funds together under 17 per cent. In 1981 persons' proportion was 28 per cent, and insurance companies and pension funds almost 50 per cent.

There is no obvious reason why saving via intermediaries should be any less efficient than saving by individuals. The chief concern about the institutionalization of saving and investment should be political. The Conservative Party has championed the idea of a property-owning democracy for decades, but by diverting savings into institutional channels, the tax system was forging a property-owning bureaucracy. People could not readily identify with their stake in industry.

The 1984 Budget was a radical attempt to reverse the trends of the past 30 years and to end the most serious inconsistencies they had created. The phasing-out of 100 per cent first-year allowances was the most important single measure. Over a relatively short period the tax motive for heavy investment will disappear. Instead, investments will have to be justified on the grounds that they give a satisfactory pre-tax rate of return.

In due course the ending of 100 per cent first-year allowances will generate substantial revenue for the Exchequer. The banks, which exploited the tax incentives in their leasing operations, now find that their

substantial deferred tax liabilities will become actual tax liabilities. When the deferred tax is paid it will go some way to cover the cost of scrapping the National Insurance Surcharge.

In other words, the tax system has shifted from subsidizing the employment of capital and penalizing the employment of labour to being more even-handed and neutral.

Equally basic has been the reappraisal of taxation of personal savings, although Mr Lawson's first budget should in this respect be seen as a successor to several changes introduced by Sir Geoffrey Howe. The halving of stamp duty and the abolition of the investment income surcharge are important, but more valuable for many wealthy people were the reduction in the top rate of income tax to 60 per cent in 1979 and the indexation of capital gains tax in 1982. At any rate, there seems to be a new understanding that a rich nation is likely to contain rich individuals. The institutionalization of saving has been tackled by ending life assurance premium relief, although insurance companies seem generally unashamed by the change.

Perhaps most fundamentally, the 1984 Budget should be seen as an attempt to move towards a neutral, non-discriminatory tax system. The ultimate aim is that people's decision should be as close as possible to what they would be in the absence of taxes. Mr Lawson's first Budget is therefore, very much in accordance with the Thatcher Government's overall philosophy.

Tim Congdon is economics partner at Stockbrokers L. Messel & Co. He will resume his regular *Economist Commentary* in *The Times* next week.

THE ACCOUNTANT'S VIEW: IAN HAYES

When tax can be a fatal burden

In the consultative document of December 1982, the Inland Revenue stated that of 130 British groups surveyed, there were 220 companies controlled from but resident outside the United Kingdom. All controlled foreign companies are collectively estimated to account for an annual loss of £100m to the Exchequer, but without the statistics on which these figures are based, it is impossible to query them.

What can be challenged is the presumption that the income passing into or through these companies would, otherwise, accrue in the United Kingdom or, more importantly, that if it did the company or group would be able to compete in international markets. In many instances the imposition of UK taxation in such circumstances

would lead to complete loss of the small margins necessary to maintain a viable market share. The Finance Bill proposals on Controlled Foreign Companies further extends the concept of taxability by seeking to tax the profits of a non-resident company controlled from the United Kingdom through those companies resident in the United Kingdom which have an interest of 10 per cent or more in it.

A controlled foreign company is a company resident by reason of "domicile, residence or place of management" in a territory outside the United Kingdom which is controlled by a person or persons resident in the United Kingdom and which is subject to a lower level of taxation in that territory than would be payable if the company

were subject to UK tax on its profits. For this purpose a lower level of taxation is an amount of tax paid in the territory of residence which is less than a half of the amount of UK tax which would be payable on the same profits.

The existence of a controlled foreign company will not lead, automatically, to the assessment of UK taxation on its profits. By and large, the legislation is designed to catch companies used to accumulate income in low-tax jurisdictions either as a result of dividend flows. Inter-company trading or insurance, asset ownership, for example patents, or investment. That this could have a serious impact on UK trading patterns overseas is dismissed in the consultative document. Unfortunately, the UK pro-

posals do not have the benefit of a corpus of tax law otherwise designed to encourage offshore activity as, for example, the United States does. Moreover, the double tax provisions in the UK are thoroughly unattractive and wasteful of foreign tax credit. That the taxpayer's remedy is an appeal to the Commissioners or the courts is not particularly satisfactory both because of the costs of undertaking litigation and the difficulty in establishing motivation for any given action.

I would like now to consider the prospects for planning and compliance on the assumption that the proposed legislation does reach the statute book in its present form. Looking at compliance first, the provisions are far from simple and rely heavily on the discretion of the board. I suspect that in any regulations or instructions issued, the revenue will draw heavily upon their experience both at the Oil Taxation Office and the transfer pricing unit. If this is the case, the tax-paying company can expect detailed and lengthy correspondence which will demonstrate an informed understanding of their operations!

As to planning, firstly the question of control needs to be reviewed. An interest in an overseas company which under no definition gives rise to control cannot fall within the ambit of this legislation. I suspect that as the practicalities of the proposals settle down there will be an emergence of joint-venture operations where the controlling party is not UK resident.

It may be that, Section 482 permitting, some UK parent companies may consider migrating.

On the positive side, it may be that some companies opt for UK taxability, given the lower rate that will apply, or that the benefits of offshore operation, despite the legislation, are still worth pursuing. An offshore trading company that distributes 50 per cent of its profits still has 50 per cent to invest and accumulate. Moreover, with reducing rates of corporation tax, 35 per cent in 1986, it will not be long before the 50 per cent rule will exempt countries with corporate tax rates at levels currently considered generous.

Ian Hayes is of Armitage & Norton, chartered accountants.

THE LAWYER'S VIEW: JOHN CARRELL

Profit-share perks have built-in bonus

As tax efficient perks die out, a new and now highly tax-efficient form of remuneration is making a comeback: the Executive Share Scheme. Share schemes not only provide incentives for the executive and give him a stake in the company he works for but they have, if Inland Revenue approved, a distinct tax advantage for him over cash salary. Whereas salary is taxed at income tax rates rising from 30 per cent to 60 per cent, the "profit" that the executive makes on his shares is taxed at a maximum to 30 per cent, in many cases, it is not taxed at all.

There are three approved schemes: the Profit Sharing Scheme introduced in 1978, the Savings Related Share Option Scheme which followed in 1980, and the Approved Share Option Scheme, one of the stars of this year's Budget. In the Profit Sharing Scheme, the tax advantage to the executive is striking. The company makes payments into a trust which subscribes for shares on the executive's behalf and then holds those shares for a period of years before releasing them to him.

Providing that they are held in trust for seven years, the executive pays no tax at all on the value of the shares originally given to him.

What is more, the payments made by the company is enabled to pay executives effectively tax-free remuneration in the form of shares and it can do so up to a maximum of 10 per cent of the executive's salary, up to a ceiling of £5,000 a year.

The Savings Related Share Option Scheme gives a less spectacular, but nevertheless useful, tax saving. An executive is given an option to buy shares in his company at a discount of five years' time and he can contribute monthly to an SAYE scheme, the proceeds of which are used to pay for his shares. He is thus given the opportunity to make a profit if the shares go up in price, if the share price falls he will not, of course, exercise the option.

Although his job has given him this opportunity, the profit he makes is not chargeable to income tax as part of his salary. Instead it is liable to 30 per cent capital gains tax when the shares are eventually sold. In most cases an executive's gain will be within his £5,600 annual

CGT exemption, so that he will pay no tax at all. Both the Profit Sharing and the Savings Related Schemes have to be open to all the company's staff. Moreover, the allocation to each executive is restricted. A more selective scheme where generous allocations of share options can be made to a few senior directors and high-flyers is now available in the form of the Approved Share Option Scheme announced in the Budget.

The Approved Share Option Scheme is a straightforward share option scheme not linked to a SAYE contract. Many companies already have share option schemes but under these unapproved schemes, the executive pays income tax when he exercises his option, on the difference between the option price and the then market price of the shares. Under the new Approved Scheme, executives pay no tax when they exercise their option and only pay capital gains tax, subject to their annual exemption, when they sell the shares they have acquired. They are thus relieved of the problem that they had under unapproved option schemes, of having to sell shares as soon as the option is exercised, to fund hefty payment of income tax.

The company can grant options to its directors and executives entirely at its discretion: the scheme does not have to be open to all. Each executive can receive options on shares worth up to four times his salary or £100,000 whichever is the greater. So, with very top salaries now in the £500,000 range, some chief executives could be given options on shares worth up to £2m!

The Inland Revenue rules do not fix a limit on the percentage of the company's share capital which can be used for such schemes but many companies will have to take account of the limits laid down by the investment protection committees of pension funds and other institutional shareholders. Although open to detailed criticism, the Approved Share Option Scheme is to be welcomed as it enables companies to give senior people incentives that are truly tax efficient.

John Carrell is a partner in Stephenson Harwood, solicitors.

BASKETBALL

Britain seeking the win that appears well beyond them

From Robert Pryce, Paris

When Tom Schneeman has a grievance, everybody knows about it. The British team's coach has protested loud (during games) and long (after games) about the assignments of referees and practice times. He has at least made it clear that he calls "the new kids on the block" are to be treated with the same respect as the more established teams competing here for the three places in the Olympic finals available to European teams.

But he cannot complain about Britain's current position, which is perilous. His team have lost, fair and square, to both France and West Germany, who both now look likely to qualify for Los Angeles. Unless Britain can upset either

build a comfortable lead. Kilmichius, a jewel of a ballhandler, is allowed to turn out in an occasional cameo. Sabonis, the young giant, takes rebounds one-handed, as if he was catching tangerines. Gomelski, the coach, smiles and shrugs at bad refereeing decisions as if to say, "What else can you expect from mortals?"

Short of a miracle, these Gods will not be seen on the Olympic this year. For reasons beyond their control and outside Gomelski's capacity to comment. They will not be tested by the best amateur teams in the world. And the professional of the United States have so far refused to play them. We may never discover how good this team really is.

Certainly they are too good to allow Britain a glimmer of hope. The disparity will be most immediately obvious under the baskets, where the British, in the words of the Spanish coach, Miguel Diaz, have "not too many high people but good jumping people". In the French team is a promising seven-footer called Georges Vestris. To see him on court with the likes of the 7ft 2in Tichchenko is like seeing a total eclipse of the sun. Acquaintance with the theory hardly prepares you for the evidence of your eyes.

Spain will be the only little less formidable. Martin and Romay do not give much away in power even to the Soviets. San Epifanio may be the outstanding small forward here. Juan Antonio Corbalan is by common consent the outstanding point guard. The British will not be seen on Olympus this year. Short of a miracle, these Gods will not be seen on the Olympic this year. For reasons beyond their control and outside Gomelski's capacity to comment. They will not be tested by the best amateur teams in the world. And the professional of the United States have so far refused to play them. We may never discover how good this team really is.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Tourists face their first real test of strength

Wagga Wagga, New South Wales (Reuters) - Riverina plan to give Britain's forward strength its first severe test when the two sides meet at the Eric Weisbe Oval here today.

It will be the second match of Britain's tour of Australia and New Zealand, the first having resulted in a 40-13 win over Northern Territory in Darwin on Friday.

Riverina's pack includes the former New South Wales second row forward, Paul Field, the international prop, Neville Hogan and the experienced backrow man Ron Pilon. They should give the British forwards a thorough workout before the first of three international matches against Australia on June 9.

Britain's margin of victory over Darwin was flatter. The tourists looked vulnerable at times and the Riverina coach, Geoff Foster, is rallying his huge pack to probe for any British weakness.



Myler (left), expects a difficult match, and Lydon, who makes his first appearance in Australia.

Squash rackets: new-look national league

Aiming for the first division of sport

It has long been a matter of contention and incomprehension among the competing professional squash fraternity that almost sedentary games like darts and snooker attract huge sums through television popularity, whereas their own three million adherents remain firmly excluded from the broadcasting bonanza.

The game's administrators and its small group of professional promoters have performed contentious and cosmetic surgery over the years in pursuit of television exposure. It is, therefore, ironic that they could well have the television people chasing them for a change as a result of a largely internal initiative. Assisted by American Express, the Squash Rackets Association has engineered radical £100,000 renovations of their national league structure. A new Premier League is arranged for the coming season, featuring top squash men from all over the world teamed with club players in search of national recognition.

Elite clubs The format provides for an elite competition between eight or 10 clubs playing fully professional squads in home and away fixtures every Tuesday evening, supported by a national results and information service. "We envisage a weekly internet developing for the top squash league, similar to that won by soccer for its first division," the SRA organizer Andrew Shelley, said.

Others may be more encouraged that the elevation of the inter-

Colin McQuillan

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Crushing defeats not whole story for Oxford and Cambridge

Gower has the makings of a respected captain

like Botham in 1980, his first task is the daunting one of taking on the West Indians. That could, and should have been avoided. So far, Gower has kept England strong, but all against Pakistan. The first was Lord's in 1982, when Willis was unfit, England lost then, and Gower found Botham, a

In 1982 Pakistan changed to a younger captain, Imran Khan, with miraculous results. When, in 1982-83, India switched from the venerable Gavaskar to the dashing Kapil Dev, they soon won the World Cup. Gowon's captaincy, with Willis as a member of his side, could, in a same way, embrace a new frontier. Now, anyway, is the time to start again.

year set for Wiltshire

Dorset will be without Allen and Bate, two commendable servants, but have recruited Long, a better eastern section are Pilch, of Norfolk, after 23 years, and Pougher, of Linsoburn after 25 years.

previously with Suffolk, Cockbain, released by Lancashire, joins Cheshire.

cousin of Andy Roberts, to bolster their bowling, while Buckinghamshire, last season's western division champions, will again hope for plenty of runs from Hayward, who

In the eastern division, Hertfordshire, the reigning champions, have Merry, back from Middlesex, while Carr, Middlesex calls permitting, Durham include Ramage, ex-Yorkshire, to replace Davis, the Australian quick bowler, while Northumberland will call on Ingham, another former Yorkshire player.

Two notable retirements in the

All but the most diehard Gloucestershire supporters will have been delighted by the victory of Combined Universities over that county in the Benson and Hedges Cup last

grateful for match practice and later for being able to blood their youngsters.

Several factors have contributed to the decline in performance of Oxford and Cambridge teams. Not least, since the advent of the maintenance grant, are the far more stringent academic requirements - this year's Cambridge captain, Pollock, is forbidden to play until after his exams - and an alleged, though hard to prove,

bias against sportsmen. There is little doubt that many old Bines would not have been admitted today and it is a statement of fact, not male chauvinism, that, as a result on nearly every college at Oxford and Cambridge now being open to both sexes, places that might once have been occupied by a potential Bine are now occupied by women.

No longer the same hold in schools

With earlier exams and many more alternative pursuits offered, cricket no longer has quite the same hold it once had.

in schools, but there are more than 30 products of Headmasters' Conference Schools in county cricket who did not go to Oxford or Cambridge and it is a fair assumption that, in a different era, some of those might have gained admission and reinforced the cricket XI.

As if the academic pressures were not enough, the modern

undergraduate finds himself in a game that is hard-nosed — professional is the vogue word — and where little is given away. It is a tribute to the players, and at Cambridge to their coach, Brian Taylor, that so soon after

The world at large is more likely to judge the merit of

Oxford and Cambridge by their performances in the Boat Race or on the cricket field than by the number of first-class degrees awarded each year. While academic merit must rightly be the main criterion for ad-

mission, the sports field - or the footlights or the debating hall - should be allowed, in conjunction with the library or lecture

Marcus Williams

Olympics in sight for Allam and Richards

Jo Richards and Peter Allam handled the pressure of Olympic trials superbly at Weymouth yesterday, sailing their home-built Flying Dutchman to her second win in three races. Richards and Allam are far from secure yet, but Charles Apthorp's confirmed disqualification in the first race has given the Isle of Wight pair a healthy lead in the nine-race series.

The battle for Finn selection between Mike McIntyre and Roddy Bridge turned into a real cliff-hanger on the last beat. The two had duelled relentlessly throughout the race, neither sailor letting the pressure drop for a second. But 100 yards or so from the finish, on port tack, McIntyre misjudged his crossing and retired after a collision with Bridge, who went on to win.

Lawrie Smith and Andy Barker scored their first win yesterday in the 470s.

The Jarrett brothers were second, while Cathy Foster and Peter Newlands, who led the series after two races, were third.

Rob White, with crew David Campbell-James, holds a narrow lead over his gold medal-winning father Reg in the Tornado series.

He was a convincing winner from Randy Smyth of America, with White senior third.

David Howett, Britain's Finn representative at Kingston in 1976, won the Star class, although bad results in an earlier series have left him no chance of selection, which is between John Boyce and David Munge and Ian Wellwood and John Maddocks.

RESULTS: Toronado Third race: 1, R White and

D Campbell-James; 2, R Smyth also a winner; 3, R White and S Oles. Flying Dutchman: Third race: 1, J Richards and P Allen; 2, T Blair; and C Houchin; 3, C Aphrope and A Thomas. 470: Second race: 1, L Smith and A Barker; 2, D Jarrett and I Jarrett; 3, C Foster and P Newlands. Star: Second race: 1, D Howell; and T Taviner; 2, J Boyce and D Munge; 3, A Hurst and T Symons. Fish: Second race: 1, R Bridge; 2, N Walbert; 3, J Greenwood.

IN BRIEF

Acaries for

Moore

Devey Moore, of the United States, the former junior-middleweight champion, will meet Louis Acaries, of France, over 12 rounds in Antibes, France, on July 1. Acaries

GOLF: The four-ball game returns to the professional circuit later this

year with the Sol PGA Championship, which will be played over the Royal Birkenhead and Hillside courses on Merseyside from October 10-12. It is the first such event since the Sumrie tournament was discontinued in 1978.

10

Marcus Williams

[illegible]

Smith finds himself in the middle of a muddle

By Pat Butcher

Geoff Smith was banned from athletics for life yesterday, a ban which lasted all of six hours, and which is eloquent testimony of the sport's British administration not knowing what the right hand is doing.

The International Amateur Athletic Federation did not come out of the situation with much grace either. It was announced last week that Smith's selection as a member of the British Olympic marathon squad was dependent on the result of an inquiry into his amateur status. This was instituted by the IAAF, following the use of "illegal" advertising on Smith's vest when he won the Boston marathon last month. The performance which earned him his Olympic selection.

The IAAF requested the inquiry from the British Amateur Athletic Board, who passed it on to the Amateur Athletic Association, which took a good opportunity to deal with the IAAF's officials. The AAAB and AAA officials spent most of yesterday blaming each other for doing nothing, while poor Smith was left to hear on Radio Mersey that his participation in next Monday's Olympic 10,000 metres trial at the United Kingdom championships in Cwmbran had also been put in jeopardy by Nigel Cooper, the Board secretary. Cooper was acting on the letter from the IAAF, stating that Smith "by his own act had rendered himself ineligible". The UK championships are held under IAAF laws, so in an extraordinary interpretation of "guilty until proved innocent", Cooper decided that Smith was ineligible.

But after repeated attempts at eliciting clarification from AAA, the AAAB, and the IAAF by perplexed members of the media, John Holt, the general secretary of the IAAF, instructed Cooper to permit Smith to compete, "since we must give the athlete the benefit of the doubt". Injustice had therefore been averted for the time being, and Geoff Smith, who also competes at Cwmbran this weekend, was pushed into the background. But considering the questionable manoeuvres to accept Miss Budd, a British athlete, this threat to Smith by the AAAB is grossly hypocritical.



Smith: out and then in

GOLF

Miss Grice rises to challenge

By John Heanessy

Strong winds played havoc with the golfing swing and the first day of the English Women's Championships, sponsored by Chamberlain, at Hunstanton yesterday. The gusts, moreover, came from an unconventional quarter, the north-east, so that for most of the players the par of 75 was a distant mirage.

Penny Grice, 19-year-old Yorkshire champion, rose splendidly above the conditions, however, to match play a lost ball. She is a solid player at the best of times but the fire of battle is in her now after criticism, mostly from the border, of her selection for the Curtis Cup match against the United States at Muirfield in two weeks' time.

The players faced a different course yesterday from the one they had familiarised themselves with in practice. Hitting into the full force of the wind at the first, Miss Grice started with a five, technically a shot dropped, but there were few others to complain. The third (389 yards) was also out of range and a three iron at the short seventh vaguely in the direction of Cromer demanded a second tee shot.

Miss Grice's ball fell four over after 10 holes, but she reeled off three successive birdies and three putts at the 14th were handsomely redeemed by a short game that reduced two more long holes to four.

Miss Grice leads by two strokes from Carol Caldwell, a former Curtis Cup player, and the other English players chosen for Muirfield, Beverly New and Laura Davies are comfortably placed on 82, but Jill Thornhill took a 94, that for most of the reigning British champion. The holder, Linda Bayman, is a stroke further back. A second stroke-play tie is to be held today and the leading 32 players qualify for the match-play stage.

LEADING SCORES: 75 P. Grice (Yorkshire) 77; C. Caldwell (Sussex) 78; S. Moorcroft (Thames Valley) 80; G. New (Hampshire) 81; M. Holloway (Hampshire) 82; E. Emswiler (Berkshire) 83; L. Bayman (Sussex) 84; J. Thornhill (Sussex) 85; L. Bayman (Sussex) 86; J. Thornhill (Sussex) 87; L. Bayman (Sussex) 88; J. Thornhill (Sussex) 89; L. Bayman (Sussex) 90; J. Thornhill (Sussex) 91; L. Bayman (Sussex) 92; J. Thornhill (Sussex) 93; L. Bayman (Sussex) 94; J. Thornhill (Sussex) 95; L. Bayman (Sussex) 96; J. Thornhill (Sussex) 97; L. Bayman (Sussex) 98; J. Thornhill (Sussex) 99; L. Bayman (Sussex) 100.

British girls stay home

By Lewine Mair

All eight members of the American Curtis Cup party will warm up for the match at Muirfield by competing in the 36-holes St. Rule Trophy over the Old Course, St. Andrews, on Saturday, June 2.

Not one member of the Great Britain and Ireland side is in the field, something which has aroused suspicion north of the border in the wake of ill feeling concerning the British selectors' choice of the Curtis Cup side which includes no Scots.

The British women chose not to take part as it meant adding extra days on to their trip north for the Curtis Cup and the British women's championship.

Easier ground is in 'We'll Meet Again's' favour

By Mandarin (Michael Phillips)

Now that there is plenty of give in the ground again, 'We'll Meet Again' can be given an excellent chance of winning the Chichester Festival Theatre Handicap at Goodwood today. He won at this meeting 12 months ago when there were similar conditions underfoot and it was soft when he was successful in a 10-furlong handicap at Leicester last season.

Lobkowitz goes close if he runs as well as he did at Doncaster 16 days ago when he was second to the consistent horse, Basil Boy, Range-finder would also be a big danger if he were to reproduce his good third in the Newbury Spring Cup. However, the state of the going looks the decisive factor and 'We'll Meet Again' should give his supporters a good run with only 8st 3lb.

British Telecom have sponsored the Raelene Handicap Stakes, which looks a good opportunity for Richard Quinn, Paul Cole's promising apprentice, to make a good impression again on Sound of the Sea. Quinn rode the mare for Bill Wighams at Mersey Sound on the last August when they accounted for Young Inca and Spark Chief.

Now she meets Spark Chief, who was successful at Epsom last 7th May, on even better terms. On a line which looks the decisive factor and the Sea should take care of Jonaris, the top weight, who will be better suited by today's five furlongs than he was by the six furlongs at York last Thursday.

Brave Monarch, Crown Eagle, Fairfax, High Society, Royal Crown and Royal Cracker will ensure that the Levin Down Stakes is a hard-fought affair because all six have similar form. I just prefer Richard Quinn, who has ridden Crown Eagle just behind when

he was just beaten by Electrical Wind at Lingfield. After riding Farhaan, Tony Murray will fly north to Ripon to partner Sorayah, the recent Windsor winner, for Harry Thompson Jones in the St. Marygate Stakes. However, 1st prefer Sharp Ascent who won her only race at Kempton as a 5-2 on short notice. Sharp Ascent could be the first of three winners at the Yorkshire course for Michael Scoute and Walter Swinburn.

They also seem poised to win the Althorpe Handicap with Bishop's Ring and the Stonebridge Stakes with Northern Tempest (nap). Northern Tempest's form in the Greenham Stakes this spring and the Gran Criticism in Milan last October looks better than anything accomplished in France by Try To Stop Me, who is now trained at Arundel by John Dunlop.

The Skelgate Handicap can provide the connections of Cree Bay with swift consolation for that rather luckless run behind Pampas in the David Dixon Trophy at York eight days ago.

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Attractive and unusual office in the surroundings on the River near Tower Bridge.

Applicants should be at least 25, non-smokers and unless resident in the Greenwich/Bow area or S.E. London area, have their own transport. Free parking is available if needed.

An excellent salary and benefits will be offered to the right person. Please apply in writing with a c.v. to:

Robert Ackland
Jacobs Island Company Ltd
The Harpy, Mill St, London SE1 2BA

DIRECTOR OF CITY MERCHANT BANK

requires ambitious Secretary. Good education and secretarial skills essential and the ability to work under pressure. Suitable position for person seeking responsible post with prospects of advancement and involvement with a newly created energetic business development team. Good salary and benefits.

Write brief details to: Box 0516 L The Times.

THE CREAM OF THE CREME!

CHAIRMAN +++ £10,000

One of the most exciting opportunities around: an extremely interesting career position as PA to the Chairman of several companies. Varied work for a top calibre person aged 35-45 with shorthand, SW1.

BILINGUAL to £11,000

Fluent French essential plus other European languages useful; much commercial involvement including possible travel abroad. Use your self motivation and ability to make decisions in a small office environment within a large company, W1.

ADVERTISING £8,000 Neg.

PA to Chairman of a small SW1 advertising company - a post for someone who knows and loves the advertising world with good administrative ability and organisational flair. Shorthand required. Age 25-35.

BANKING £8,500

PA/Secretary to a dealer who wants to involve you in a varied and busy banking post. Your shorthand, initiative, 'O' levels and financial background rewarded with job interest and excellent benefits including mortgage sub. City.

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PA TO SALES DIRECTOR

Pharmaceuticals, Potters Bar

Our Sales Director spends most of his day out of the office and he needs a PA with top rate secretarial skills who will act as his back up, dealing with customers on the phone, processing orders, and handling enquiries.

The ideal person will have initiative and drive, a friendly personality and excellent telephone manner as well as first class administrative ability.

The company is young, friendly and informal, based in Potters Bar and the prospects are excellent for the right person.

If this sounds like you, and you would like to earn £8,000pa to start, write with CV to

L Stalzenberg

Generics (UK) Ltd

12 Station Close

Potters Bar, Herts

or phone (0707) 44556 for details

(No Agencies)

TANDEM COMPUTERS EUROPEAN DIVISION

Secretary

BUCKINGHAM GATE SW1

The new European Division of this fast growing company has a requirement for a top class Secretary to assist the senior members of the executive team.

Previous experience at director level will be useful. Impeccable secretarial skills, organisational ability and a good educational standard are essential qualifications.

The ability to act responsibly on your own initiative is necessary, plus a pleasant personality and a good appearance.

Salary will reflect the responsibilities of this position.

Please reply in writing with c.v. to:

Mrs J. Mohr

Personnel Officer, Tandem Computers Ltd

Peel House, 32/34 Church Road

Northolt, Middlesex UB8 5AB

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY/PA

£10,000 - £12,000

According to Age and Experience

We are seeking an exceptional person to join a team of young executives. She will be Secretary/PA to the MD but will be required to become involved in all administrative aspects of running this new financial services company in the City. The new company is a subsidiary of a major European Bank and the candidate will need the poise and maturity to deal with business and finance executives at a senior level.

This is an excellent opportunity for a bright, self-confident and highly professional secretary, the successful applicant should have accurate typing and shorthand, be self-motivated and above all be looking for involvement and responsibility. The MD places a high premium on commitment to the job and dependability. Age 25-35. Excellent Bank fringe benefits.

For further information telephone: Miss Morgan 01-370 2884 or apply in writing enclosing CV to:

Box 0526 L The Times

QUEEN MARY COLLEGE

University of London

SECRETARY

with several years experience, good shorthand/typing skills and ability to use initiative and responsibility in organising work, required for Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering. This is a large Department, very active in research, and with considerable autonomy and responsibility. Salary on scale £7,200 - £9,348 p.a.

SECRETARY (or Professor and group in School of Biological Sciences. Good shorthand/typing and previous office experience necessary while work-procedure experience an advantage. The School is expanding and the duties of this post will be both interesting and varied. Salary on scale £A.257 - £7,346 p.a. 16 weeks annual leave, cafeteria on site which is close to Central/District Line stations and on bus routes. Please apply by letter, setting out age, education, previous experience, to Miss Ezzell, Queen Mary College, Mile End Road, London E1 4NS.

SECRETARY

SW7

Bright, hardworking secretary for Managing Director of young, growing group of companies. Essential qualities, initiative, resourcefulness, ability to work quickly. The successful applicant will be required to assist other executives.

Salary c.£10,000 (No Agencies)

Ring 01-584 8129/0 or 01-584 7952

SECRETARY/PA TO DIRECTOR OF INVESTMENT

Water Authorities Superannuation Fund £8,630 (including London Weighting)

The Director of Investment for the Water Authorities Superannuation Fund is seeking to appoint a Secretary/PA with effect from the beginning of July 1984.

This is an interesting position for a mature and accomplished person with good organising ability, initiative, tact and discretion.

Secretarial skills including shorthand must be impeccable and ideally the successful candidate will be numerate and have some previous knowledge of the investment and banking world.

Please write with detailed CV and your daytime telephone no. to:

Director of Investment,

Water Authorities Superannuation Fund,

1 Queen Anne's Gate, London SW1H 9BT.

Closing date for applications, 4th June 1984.

THE TIMES

MULTILINGUAL SECRETARY

c. £8720 p.a.

An experienced and capable multilingual secretary is needed in the Advertising Department of The Times. Absolute fluency in German, French and English is essential as is the ability to take shorthand in English.

Your secretarial and office skills will need to be of a high standard; previous experience in a sales office would be an advantage.

The salary is currently under review.

Please send full personal and career details to:

Desmond Hayes, Assistant Personnel Manager,

Times Newspapers Limited, 200 Gray's Inn Road,

LONDON WC1X 8EZ

SECRETARY/PA

To Managing Director - £8,500 - Croydon Area

The position will involve dedicated back up to a busy executive who heads a growing advertising and communications agency group which incorporates photography, design and PR.

Good shorthand and typing skills required plus ability to handle administration and liaison work involving a high degree of initiative.

A rewarding position with a young team. Applicants aged between 28 and 40 should write in own hand in first instance enclosing detailed CV to:

Mr. D.J. Hill, Company Secretary, Academy Communications Group,

Academy House, 40/44 Stafford Road,

Wallingford, Surrey SN6 5AA

START FROM SCRATCH

WEST END £11,000 - £12,000

We are seeking a First Class PA aged 27-35 to help set up and run an exciting new venture Capital Company backed by a major merchant bank.

Working for the two Directors you will be totally responsible for the efficient organisation of this small office and must be prepared to take decisions in their absence. Lots of client contact, including arranging cocktail parties and in house lunches. You should be well educated, socially polished and prepared to get really involved. Financial experience and SH/TP speeds of 100/80 necessary.

Please Ring 588 3355

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(Underwriting Agents) Limited

This is an opportunity to join an expanding Lloyd's Underwriting Agency and assist our senior staff. They will delegate as much as you can handle. Take full responsibility for smooth running of the office. Good secretarial and work processing skills essential. Salary negotiable. Company benefits include medical insurance, L.V.'s, Profit-Sharing and Christmas bonuses.

For further details contact:

Tricia Somerville on 488 2345.

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Recruitment Consultants

also on page 26

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EXPERIENCED SECRETARY

With ability and initiative, for specialised Insurance Agency W1. Audio, sh., typ. interesting and responsible work in small busy office, salary neg.

Tel. 01-486 4676

PROPERTY COMPANY

We are moving to the West End and require an experienced Audio Secretary with a sense of humour to look after 8 busy men. We are a fast growing company and the position offers a challenge as well as the total involvement for the right person. Duties to include running the office, answering telephones, arranging meetings, and client contact. 5/11 an asset, age 27-35 years. Salary £7,500. Please write with CV to:

Mrs S. Fegelson,
Rugby Securities Ltd
32 Hampstead High Street, London NW3 1QQ

A STORY

Two little babies were born in 1959. One went to Rugby and University, the other went to Downside and the Guards. They meet in an agency and decided to start a Software Company. Now they need a young mummy/daddy to look after them. Mummy/daddy must be very bright and must learn to operate a small computer and WP. You must like working in Fulham and you will get a child allowance of £3,000, just to be getting on with it!

Mummy/daddy, please send CV, photo and fond letter to:
Box 0602 R The Times

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S PA, SUFFOLK

The recently appointed Chief Executive of one of the major companies in the area needs a highly motivated and career orientated Secretary/PA. The successful candidate will have worked as Secretary/PA in industry/commerce and be educated to at least 'A' level. Relocation expenses will be paid if appropriate. Speeds 50/60. Aged 25+.

CRONE AND DAVIES RECRUITMENT LTD
35 Arvine Place, W1, 01-483 7788

TOP SALARY

An International Bank in the City needs a highly motivated and career orientated Secretary/PA. The successful candidate will have worked as Secretary/PA in industry/commerce and be educated to at least 'A' level. Relocation expenses will be paid if appropriate. Speeds 50/60. Aged 25+.

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PERSONNEL RECRUITMENT

Potential Earnings £15K

Are you ambitious, self-motivated, with the ability to assess people's skills? Then enjoy personal growth with this International Recruitment Consultancy. You will receive a top salary commission in a successful, fast-paced environment. You will be responsible for the business development of your own clients through provision of a professional service. If you have a successful background, call Elaine Warner on 01-724 8511.

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SECRETARY PLUS

£7,800

An excellent opportunity for a young, mature secretary wishing to gain further experience by joining the office of a main board company. The work is demanding and can be pursued with efficiency, initiative and good education are pre-requisites to succeed as a member of the team. Excellent salary (£7,800) and at least 2 years experience at director level are essential. Beautiful offices and superb benefits. Age 25-35. Please telephone 01-483 5787.

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SENIOR SECRETARY

Sought for two assistant directors of trade association/employers' organisation. Wide range of interesting topics involved; previous experience, good shorthand/typing, intelligence and helpful personality, required.

Permanent appointment in successful organisation with small, friendly staff. Own office in pleasant premises near Victoria Station; 0930 to 1700; four weeks holiday; L.V.S. season ticket loan; around £6,500/£7,000 p.a. with annual reviews.

Please send C.V. marked private and confidential to:

The Administrative Officer,
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28 Eccleston Street, London SW1W 9JY
(or telephone Mr Brown on 01-730 7117)

SECRETAIRES/PAs

If you want to work in:
• Legal Environment
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Call Geoff. Enquirer now
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JUNIOR SECRETARY for PR

Ideal first or second job in busy PR Consultancy near Piccadilly Circus. We need an energetic junior with fast S/H & typing who's willing to work under pressure. Salary £5,000 negotiable. Please telephone Gilly Wignall 020 47711

Receptionist Telephone/Telex Operator

25+ required immediately for busy London office of international firm of Dental Services. Salary negotiable according to age and experience. Ring Mrs Black 828 7471

GRAPHIC DESIGNERS in W1

Graphic design agency for W1 need bright, young creative designers for 2 positions. Salary £25,000. Ring 408 0670.

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RECEPTIONIST to £25,000, in Bank. 25 yrs+ exp. in busy London office. Credit cards, invitations, bills, etc. Excellent system for correspondence. Salary £25,000. Ring 408 0670.

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AUDIO and Video, £120 p.w. + lunch and 4 weeks holiday. 24+ hours. Key. Salary range £2,500-4,000. Ring 408 0670.

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PA/SECRETARY to HEADMASTER

An experienced confidential Personal Assistant/Secretary is required for the Headmaster of Felsted School.

This is a varied and interesting post, which involves dealing with people at all levels. Audio typing and shorthand essential, word processing experience would be useful. Accommodation may be available.

Further details and application form from:
**The Bursar, Department J,
Felsted School, Dunmow, Essex.**

RECEPTIONIST/ SECRETARY

We are a small, lively development company in unique and attractive offices on the River by Tower Bridge, requiring an intelligent, enthusiastic and well-organised Secretary with fast, accurate typing and an ability to deal with a variety of office duties. The position offers good prospects for promotion and a starting salary of £8,000 p.a. + benefits. Applicants should be non-smokers, aged 25+ and preferably have experience in the Greenwicks/Essex area. Please apply in writing with a CV to: Robert Ashford, Jacobs Island Company Ltd, The Harpy, Mill St, London, SE1 2BA.

SECRETARY Financial Marketing

Required to assist M.D. & help run small W.I. Consultancy. Would suit someone willing to develop own, specialist knowledge of W.I./A.I. in advantage. Salary according to age & experience. Phone Catherine Porteous on 01-483 4372. No Agencies.

LIVELY YOUNG SECRETARY

In one morning... you'll organise a hectic day of Accounts, Executive, Sales with clients and still keep a sense of humour. Initiative, good secretarial skills, 160 wpm typing, with ability of coping under pressure. Excellent benefits. Please ring Tracy Pearce at 01-388 8781.

PERSONAL SECRETARY

The National Director of a leading employers' organisation requires a personal secretary with pleasant personality. The National Director post requires fast accurate typing and an ability to produce minutes from committee meetings. Some travel may be involved. Employment conditions are excellent. Apply with full details and salary requirements to: Mrs J. H. Jones, The Times.

THE PERSONNEL MANAGER of a

major Publishing Company needs a capable, energetic and well-organised person to manage the personnel department. The successful candidate will be responsible for all aspects of personnel management, including recruitment, training, development, discipline and welfare. The successful candidate will be a member of the Institution of Personnel Management. Please apply with full details and salary requirements to: Mrs J. H. Jones, The Times.

PERSONAL ASSISTANT/Secretary

Required for a leading company in the City. The successful candidate will be responsible for all aspects of personal assistance, including typing, filing, and general office duties. The successful candidate will be a member of the Institution of Personnel Management. Please apply with full details and salary requirements to: Mrs J. H. Jones, The Times.

RESEARCH PA £7,500 per client

Research PA £7,500 per client. An exciting opportunity for a research assistant to work on a variety of projects. The successful candidate will be a member of the Institution of Personnel Management. Please apply with full details and salary requirements to: Mrs J. H. Jones, The Times.

DRINKS ORGANIZATION in Mayfair

Drinks Organization in Mayfair. An exciting opportunity for a drinks organizer to work on a variety of projects. The successful candidate will be a member of the Institution of Personnel Management. Please apply with full details and salary requirements to: Mrs J. H. Jones, The Times.

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We have a number of vacancies for bilingual secretaries. The successful candidate will be a member of the Institution of Personnel Management. Please apply with full details and salary requirements to: Mrs J. H. Jones, The Times.

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By Christopher Warman
Property Correspondent

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2,500. 01-225 8276, r.v.c.

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<p>WESTMINSTER Ideal plot of 2 terraced garden bed area, 2 rms, 1 b & b, in block with ct. int. 8d pt. view. £45,000.</p> <p>BOLTON GARDENS SWS Spectacular flat 3 bed, large, super kitchen/diner, bath & closets. Ct. int. 8d pt. view.</p>	<p>KINGSTON/BRIDGE Last remaining flat close to 2 bed, 1 reception, 1 b & b, c. garden. £25 pt. view. £25,000.</p> <p>EATON SQ. SW1 Superior flat on 3rd floor, 2 beds, 1 reception, 1 b & b, c. garden. £25 pt. view. £25,000.</p>
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Windsor Grand Park, 2 min
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tools.

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Large new house for 2 bed-
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TUPRILL PARK. 4 large bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 3rd fl. recreation room, 2nd fl. pool, excellent condition. \$77,900. Call 267-1111.

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6.25 Good Morning Britain, presented by John Stapleton and Nick Owen. News from Gordon Honeycombe at 6.30, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30 and 9.00; sport at 6.35 and 7.35; Star Romance at 8.40 and 8.15; news at 8.50 and 9.15; the day's anniversaries at 7.05 and 8.15; Popeye Morris at 7.23; Johnny Carlton at 7.40; pop video at 7.55; Eve Pollard's gossip column at 8.33; the Billy Joel story at 9.03.

ITV/LONDON

6.25 Thames news headlines. 9.30 *For Schools: The final episode of the drama about a 'latchkey' child. 9.47 Stereotypes. 10.04 The Last of the Moles. 10.10 The Vikings. 10.21 Nuclear Issues. 10.50 Courtship and Intercourse. 11.10 The Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust. 11.22 Maths Rules. 11.40 Clues to the past in science.*

6.55 Wattoo-Wattoo. Cartoon series 12.00 *Atanar's Music*. Making a guitar sound from a cardboard box and an elastic band. 12.10 *Sounds Like a Story*. Mark Wynter with the tale of The Three Pigs (12.30 *The Sullivan*).

7.00 News with Leonard Parkinson 1.30 *Atanar's Music*. 3.00 *A Plus*. Trevor Hyett discusses a discussion on the current political scene and the future between Godfrey Barker, Peter Keisner, Peter Marsh and Anthony King.

7.20 Take the High Road. The Lady Laird receives some bad news 2.30 *A Country Practice*. 3.30 *Sons and Daughters* Patricia is alarmed when Rob arrives at home.

7.40 *Atanar's Music*. A repeat of the programme shown at noon 4.15 *Cartoon*. Porky Pig and Ducky Duck in My Little Lullaby 4.20 *Andi Robson*. A young boy's adventures in Norfolk. 4.30 *Horrid Henry* (4) *A Razzamatazz*. Pop Interviews and games introduced by Alastair Pirrie 5.15 *Emmetdale Farm* Who let Mrs Bates's dog loose in order that it would be shot?

7.45 News 6.00 Thames news.

7.55 *Helps Viv Taylor* Gee with news of the Age Exchange Theatre.

8.35 The UEFA Cup Final. Steve Rider sets the scene for tonight's match at Tottenham, the first leg game between Tottenham Hotspur and Anderlecht.

8.50 *Crossroads*. David Hunter begins to believe that Sarah Alexander intends to ruin his life.

9.15 *Coronation Street*. Soft-hearted Bert Lynch ends up visiting a woman with whom he agreed to help a hand.

9.45 The UEFA Cup Final. Live coverage of the game between Tottenham Hotspur and Anderlecht at White Hart Lane. The commentator is Brian Davies and Eddie Albert. A first time showing on British television for this drama about the illegal trafficking of 'webtacks' or migrant Mexicans, sold into virtual slavery by those who smuggle them across the border. Savalas plays Frank Cooper, a border policeman who refuses to be bought in exchange for turning a blind-eye to the trade in human beings. Directed by Charles Leitch.

10.00 A Party for Jimmy Broadcast on behalf of the SDP.

10.05 News.

10.25 *The Border* (1980) starring Telly Savalas, Danny O'Keefe and Eddie Albert. A first time showing on British television for this drama about the illegal trafficking of 'webtacks' or migrant Mexicans, sold into virtual slavery by those who smuggle them across the border. Savalas plays Frank Cooper, a border policeman who refuses to be bought in exchange for turning a blind-eye to the trade in human beings. Directed by Charles Leitch.

12.15 *Night Thoughts* from the Rev Bill Todd.

155m; 1069KHz/275m; Radio 2: 693KHz/291m; VHF 37.3; Capital: 154KHz/291m

BBC 2

CHANNEL 4

to film. Not all the revelations are as shocking as Richard Harvey's use of a chamber music trio to bring classical distinction to a TV commercial about slick meat. Elsewhere, the music for boosting movie-matinee sales sounds much more reasonable. Elizabeth Parker, who scored the Attenborough series *The Living Planet* "sasaans" into a microphone, returns to the effects of the London Midland Railway sticks his hand up the bell of a French horn to build up the suspense in the movie *Loose connections*.

Radio highlight: Paul Vaughan's 50th anniversary tribute to the Gyrotonne in *VALEDESCERE* (Radio 4, 9.30pm). But, if you have strong feelings about social elitism, perhaps you had better not tune in.

Peter Davalle

Radio 4

Radio 4

7.20 Checkpoint, with Roger Cook.
7.45 In Business. The programme

Peter Davalle

CHANNEL 4

Radio 4

Radio 4

7.05 The Archers.
7.20 Checkpoint, with Roger Cook.
7.45 In Business. The programme

Peter Davalle

of a famous
bourne in the

3.05 Phelps and John York.
Mozart and the Bohemians:

Radio 3

Orchestra: with Felicity Lott
(soprano) and John Shirley
(baritone). Part one. Beetho

REGIONAL TELEVISION VARIATIONS

1.50 News. 2.30 Return of the Saint.
3.30-4.00 Young Doctors. 5.15-5.45

TYNE TEES As London except:
1.20pm News. 1.25-
1.30 Where The Jobs Are. 2.30-3.30

Mysteries of Edgar Wallace. 5.15-5.45
Best of Three. 6.00 **News.** 6.02

ULSTER As London except
1.20pm-1.30 Lunchtime.
3.30-4.00 Once Upon a Time . . . Man.

5.15-5.45 Protectors. 6.00-6.35 Good Evening Ulster. 12.15am News. *Continued*

1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028, 2029, 2030, 2031, 2032, 2033, 2034, 2035, 2036, 2037, 2038, 2039, 2040, 2041, 2042, 2043, 2044, 2045, 2046, 2047, 2048, 2049, 2050, 2051, 2052, 2053, 2054, 2055, 2056, 2057, 2058, 2059, 2060, 2061, 2062, 2063, 2064, 2065, 2066, 2067, 2068, 2069, 2070, 2071, 2072, 2073, 2074, 2075, 2076, 2077, 2078, 2079, 2080, 2081, 2082, 2083, 2084, 2085, 2086, 2087, 2088, 2089, 2090, 2091, 2092, 2093, 2094, 2095, 2096, 2097, 2098, 2099, 2100, 2101, 2102, 2103, 2104, 2105, 2106, 2107, 2108, 2109, 2110, 2111, 2112, 2113, 2114, 2115, 2116, 2117, 2118, 2119, 2120, 2121, 2122, 2123, 2124, 2125, 2126, 2127, 2128, 2129, 2130, 2131, 2132, 2133, 2134, 2135, 2136, 2137, 2138, 2139, 2140, 2141, 2142, 2143, 2144, 2145, 2146, 2147, 2148, 2149, 2150, 2151, 2152, 2153, 2154, 2155, 2156, 2157, 2158, 2159, 2160, 2161, 2162, 2163, 2164, 2165, 2166, 2167, 2168, 2169, 2170, 2171, 2172, 2173, 2174, 2175, 2176, 2177, 2178, 2179, 2180, 2181, 2182, 2183, 2184, 2185, 2186, 2187, 2188, 2189, 2190, 2191, 2192, 2193, 2194, 2195, 2196, 2197, 2198, 2199, 2200, 2201, 2202, 2203, 2204, 2205, 2206, 2207, 2208, 2209, 2210, 2211, 2212, 2213, 2214, 2215, 2216, 2217, 2218, 2219, 2220, 2221, 2222, 2223, 2224, 2225, 2226, 2227, 2228, 2229, 2230, 2231, 2232, 2233, 2234, 2235, 2236, 2237, 2238, 2239, 2240, 2241, 2242, 2243, 2244, 2245, 2246, 2247, 2248, 2249, 2250, 2251, 2252, 2253, 2254, 2255, 2256, 2257, 2258, 2259, 2260, 2261, 2262, 2263, 2264, 2265, 2266, 2267, 2268, 2269, 2270, 2271, 2272, 2273, 2274, 2275, 2276, 2277, 2278, 2279, 2280, 2281, 2282, 2283, 2284, 2285, 2286, 2287, 2288, 2289, 2290, 2291, 2292, 2293, 2294, 2295, 2296, 2297, 2298, 2299, 2300, 2301, 2302, 2303, 2304, 2305, 2306, 2307, 2308, 2309, 2310, 2311, 2312, 2313, 2314, 2315, 2316, 2317, 2318, 2319, 2320, 2321, 2322, 2323, 2324, 2325, 2326, 2327, 2328, 2329, 2330, 2331, 2332, 2333, 2334, 2335, 2336, 2337, 2338, 2339, 2340, 2341, 2342, 2343, 2344, 2345, 2346, 2347, 2348, 2349, 2350, 2351, 2352, 2353, 2354, 2355, 2356, 2357, 2358, 2359, 2360, 2361, 2362, 2363, 2364, 2365, 2366, 2367, 2368, 2369, 2370, 2371, 2372, 2373, 2374, 2375, 2376, 2377, 2378, 2379, 2380, 2381, 2382, 2383, 2384, 2385, 2386, 2387, 2388, 2389, 2390, 2391, 2392, 2393, 2394, 2395, 2396, 2397, 2398, 2399, 2400, 2401, 2402, 2403, 2404, 2405, 2406, 2407, 2408, 2409, 2410, 2411, 2412, 2413, 2414, 2415, 2416, 2417, 2418, 2419, 2420, 2421, 2422, 2423, 2424, 2425, 2426, 2427, 2428, 2429, 2430, 2431, 2432, 2433, 2434, 2435, 2436, 2437, 2438, 2439, 2440, 2441, 2442, 2443, 2444, 2445, 2446, 2447, 2448, 2449, 2450, 2451, 2452, 2453, 2454, 2455, 2456, 2457, 2458, 2459, 2460, 2461, 2462, 2463, 2464, 2465, 2466, 2467, 2468, 2469, 2470, 2471, 2472, 2473, 2474, 2475, 2476, 2477, 2478, 2479, 2480, 2481, 2482, 2483, 2484, 2485, 2486, 2487, 2488, 2489, 2490, 2491, 2492, 2493, 2494, 2495, 2496, 2497, 2498, 2499, 2500, 2501, 2502, 2503, 2504, 2505, 2506, 2507, 2508, 2509, 2510, 2511, 2512, 2513, 2514, 2515, 2516, 2517, 2518, 2519, 2520, 2521, 2522, 2523, 2524, 2525, 2526, 2527, 2528, 2529, 2530, 2531, 2532, 2533, 2534, 2535, 2536, 2537, 2538, 2539, 2540, 2541, 2542, 2543, 2544, 2545, 2546, 2547, 2548, 2549, 2550, 2551, 2552, 2553, 2554, 2555, 2556, 2557, 2558, 2559, 2560, 2561, 2562, 2563, 2564, 2565, 2566, 2567, 2568, 2569, 2570, 2571, 2572, 2573, 2574, 2575, 2576, 2577, 2578, 2579, 2580, 2581, 2582, 2583, 2584, 2585, 2586, 2587, 2588, 2589, 2590, 2591, 2592, 2593, 2594, 2595, 2596, 2597, 2598, 2599, 2600, 2601, 2602, 2603, 2604, 2605, 2606, 2607, 2608, 2609, 2610, 2611, 2612, 2613, 2614, 2615, 2616, 2617, 2618, 2619, 2620, 2621, 2622, 2623, 2624, 2625, 2626, 2627, 2628, 2629, 2630, 2631, 2632, 2633, 2634, 2635, 2636, 2637, 2638, 2639, 2640, 2641, 2642, 2643, 2644, 2645, 2646, 2647, 2648, 2649, 2650, 2651, 2652, 2653, 2654, 2655, 2656, 2657, 2658, 2659, 2660, 2661, 2662, 2663, 2664, 2665, 2666, 2667, 2668, 2669, 2670, 2671, 2672, 2673, 2674, 2675, 2676, 2677, 2678, 2679, 2680, 26

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Entertainments

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Channel Tunnel financially too risky, say banks

By Michael Baily, Transport Editor

A report by five banks published yesterday effectively scuttles the Channel Tunnel project for the lifetime of this government and paves the way for a new Anglo-French conflict. The report finds that while a twin-bore rail "shuttle tunnel" the kind cancelled by Britain 10 years ago, would be financially viable, the risk would be so great that private finance would not be available without government guarantees.

Mr George Barrett, of the Midland bank, said in London yesterday: "It is not only the size of the sum needed but the extremely long period before lenders would get their money back. No bank in the world would find it acceptable."

The five banks, the Midland, National Westminster and three French banks, want guarantees if for some unforeseen reason private money runs out before the tunnel is finished. While such guarantees would no doubt be acceptable to France, Mrs Thatcher's government has made it repeatedly clear that the project could go ahead only with 100 per cent private finance.

Mr Nicholas Ridley, the Secretary of State for Transport, said in a written answer in the Commons yesterday: "It has been and remains the Government's firm position that any project would have to be financed entirely without the assistance of public funds and without commercial guarantees by the Government."

He added: "So far, we have seen no proposal which demonstrates that it can meet this condition. Nevertheless, the Government remains willing to consider facilitating a fixed link, in collaboration with the French Government, provided that the necessary financial, technical, and other aspects are satisfactorily dealt with."

The government's view is apparently that after seeing this report, other City interests might take a less cautious view than its authors and be prepared to go ahead without the guarantees.

The five banks took two years to prepare the 500-page study (on sale at £125) and say it is now up to the two Governments to make up their minds on a joint approach.

The study examines six possible tunnels, ranging in cost from £1,100m to £6,100m for construction only and from £7,400m to £54,000m as the maximum loan needed to finance the schemes with inflation at 9 per cent and interest at 13 per cent.

The favoured twin-bore tunnel with through trains and shuttle trains carrying road vehicles would cost £7,500m.

British envoy expelled

Continued from page 1

Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, is due to visit Moscow early in July - the first visit by a British Foreign Secretary to the Soviet Union for more than six years - to try to improve relations that are far from warm.

The last British diplomat expelled from Moscow was an assistant military attaché, ordered out last April in retaliation for the expulsion of three Soviet diplomats by Britain.

It was the explosion of these three which gave Bettanet a pretext for making his first approach to Mr Gorbachev by dropping details from his M15 files through his letterbox in east London.

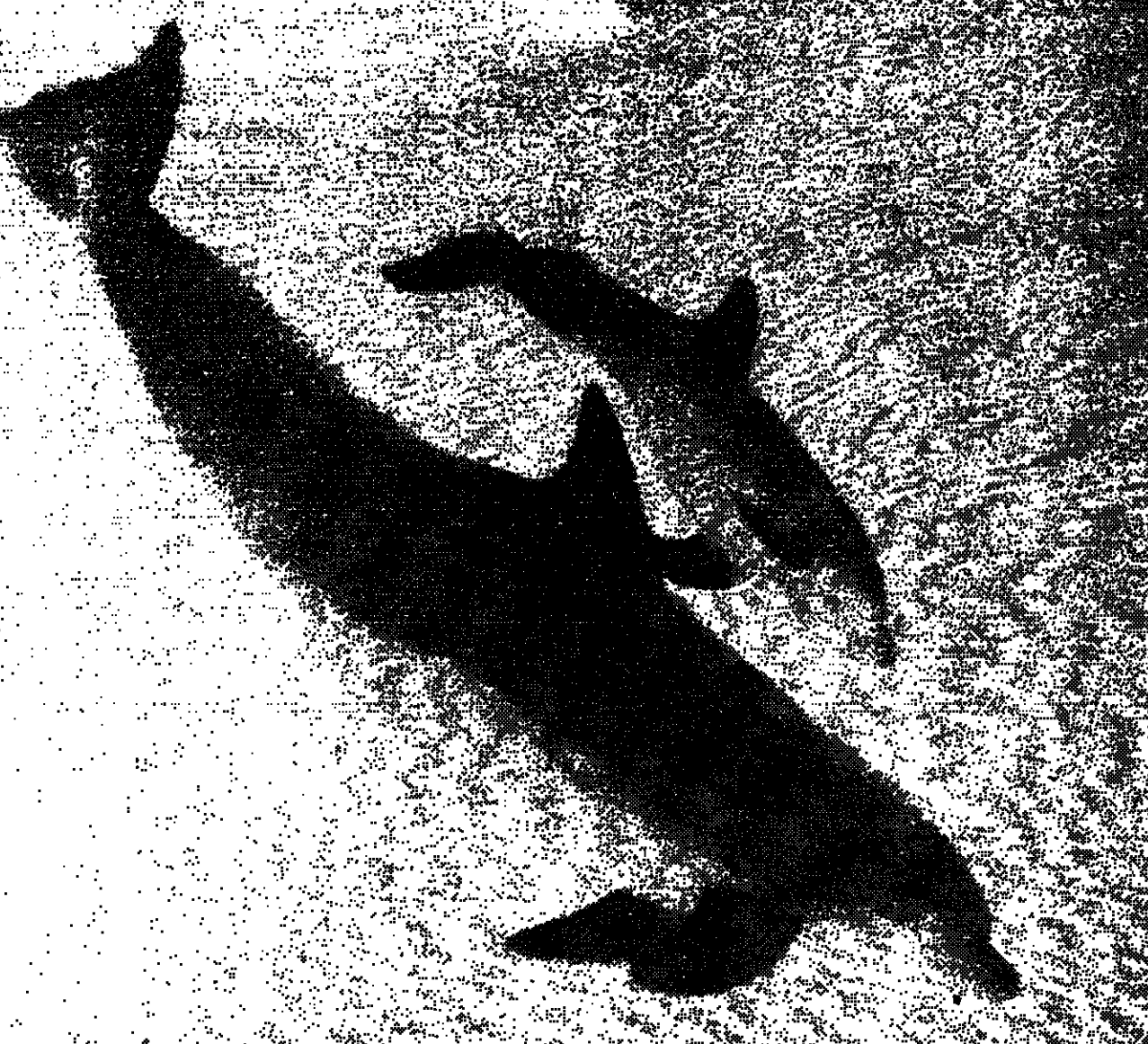
There is speculation in Moscow that the move against Mr Burnt is linked to his testimony at the Skinner inquest. Mr Burnt was sought

out last year by Mr Skinner and told that he feared arrest by the KGB and knew of a spy in the British security forces.

Mr Burnt interviewed Mr Skinner for several hours in a "secure" embassy room to prevent bugging and sent details of his claim back to London. Mr Skinner's wife said at the inquest that her husband had been in contact with both the KGB and British intelligence for many years.

Within 36 hours of first approaching the British Embassy, Mr Skinner was found dead at the bottom of his block of flats. The jury returned a verdict of unlawful killing.

Within a few weeks of Mr Skinner's allegation, Bettanet believed he was under suspicion and was being followed by M15. In fact, his arrest did not take place until three months later, after the security services had mounted a big surveillance operation



Staying close: The baby dolphin showing her paces in specially-salted water at Whipsnade Zoo.

Truck plants to close with 2,200 jobs lost

Continued from page 1

Mr Tebbitt said the Government regretted the job losses but believed they were necessary "to establish a viable prospect for the remainder of the commercial vehicles business and the employment in it."

BL's trucks business lost more than £70m last year. The recession has cut sales in Britain by half during the last five years, while export sales fell from more than 10,000 in 1979 to 6,000 in 1982 and fewer than 3,000 last year. The Government and BL say there is no prospect of the market recovering sufficiently to justify saving Bathgate.

BL said the closure would save it £10m a year.

The proceeds of the Jaguar

sale will go to BL, not the Government. This means BL is unlikely to have to ask the Government for more money in the foreseeable future.

Mr James Swan, shop stewards' convenor at Bathgate, said: "The members here are angry. There is nowhere else for them to go. The fight to save this plant is guaranteed."

Bathgate workers have been offered redundancy payments but they have seen that half the men from the Linwood car plant are still unemployed, three years after their plant closed.

Mr Swan said that if Bathgate workers did not fight the only alternative would be to move to another area.

Parliamentary report, page 4

Whipsnade dolphin baby survives critical period

A baby dolphin born on May 5 is winning the battle for survival at Whipsnade Park Zoo in Bedfordshire. The first two weeks of life are critical for dolphins, and of the ten born in Britain, none has survived very long and only one for more than a few months (Thomson Prentice writes).

The still unnamed baby born to Nina, has been nursed and nurtured not just by her mother. Zoo staff gently raised the temperature of the pool from 21 degrees C (70°) to 22° C, and added a little more salt to give the baby more buoyancy.

Even the fish it is being fed are specially selected. The mackerel and herring provided

at the Zoo are caught from the least polluted waters.

The morality rate of dolphins in the wild is also believed to be very high in the first fortnight of life. "Very little is known about how dolphins bring up their young in the wild," says Mr Victor Manton, curator of Whipsnade Park. "This is a superb opportunity for us to see a dolphin mother caring for her offspring."

The baby was born, tail-first and found her own way to the surface of the pool to take her first breath. She began to swim close to her mother's side, and Nina, aged 10, increased her speed to draw her calf along in her bow wave, thus conserving the newborn's energy.

Letter from Warsaw

Election fever but no razzmatazz

It would be an exaggeration, an even larger one than is customary in bourgeois Western journalism, to say that Poland is in the grips of election fever. Officially the "primaries" - the period of candidate selection - are over and without flash or razzmatazz the run-up to local people's council elections has begun.

There have been no candid pictures of a la Gary Hart or Ronald Reagan of a T-shirted General Jaruzelski working out in a gymnasium, no baby kissing and no cheer-leaders.

But both sides of the social barricades declare that there is a great deal at stake in the June 17 elections. The Government is facing its first electoral test - albeit at local district level - since the declaration of martial law and is allowing non-Communist candidates to stand, apparently to show that it can tolerate a degree of criticism and reform without the whole house of cards collapsing. It is very nervous though.

The Solidarity opposition, meanwhile, is calling for an all-out boycott of the elections, precisely to deny the Government the popular legitimacy it seeks. Solidarity supporters say that the participation of non-Communist candidates is a meaningless whitewash because anyone genuinely critical of the system will be weeded out, and the Communist Party will, in any case, retain control.

The primary in Muranow, Warsaw's answer to Clapham, was a good place to test assumptions. It was held in the basket ball hall of the local grammar school, with a smell of liniment and bad acoustics, outside one could hear the thud of a football against the wall.

One by one the candidates presented themselves to the voters with the blend of complacency and assumed modesty that characterizes political candidates throughout the world.

Mrs Monika Warmińska, a bespectacled authoress whose works include an account of the suffering children of Vietnam, told the hall that she had written 40 books and if elected she would try to improve Muranow's cultural standard.

"What I don't understand," an old lady with a beret said interrupting the smooth flow

of democracy, "is why in my 34 years of living in Muranow I have never seen any of the candidates." A flurry of self-justification followed, along the lines of "well, of course, I do live in a fashionable suburb now, but I used to live here and my roots are very, very deep."

But the interruption had destroyed the orderliness of the session. Two young men, one bearded, started to interrupt a candidate promised to improve the supply to shops in Muranow.

"Give us details," said one of the young men, "be specific."

"Well, I would try my best if I'm elected." But the reply comes fast: "Not good enough."

From then on each candidate received similar treatment: "What party do you belong to?" "How can you be a factory manager and a local councillor?" "What have you done in the past - why should we vote for you?"

The two men at the door looked worried. "Solidarity provocateurs," murmured one. The candidates started to show that they knew something of the district's problems and suddenly a grim picture of the place emerged. The hospitals were inadequate, the central heating was breaking down, there was a drug addiction problem, there was a lot of crime that was never reported in the newspapers, the plumbing rotten, apartment blocks were falling into disrepair.

It took the pressure of questions to make the meeting relatively free in its discussion, to break the inhibition barrier. But, as with candidate selection in the West, the degree of democracy was limited. If the meeting cannot decide on which of the candidates to exclude then it is an election council that decides who should be put on the list.

In Warsaw these councils, dominated by Communist Party members, had to decide which 400 out of 800 possible names would be put on the ballot sheet. The Poles will then be given a choice between two candidates for each vacant mandate - but the candidates will have been neatly arranged.

Boycot or no boycott, the Poles remain sceptical.

Roger Boyes

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

New books - hardback

The Literary Editor's selection of interesting books published this week:

Celtic Dawn, A Portrait of the Irish Literary Renaissance, by Ulick O'Connor (Harcourt, £12.95).

Harland's Half Acre, by David Malouf (Chatto & Windus, £28.95).

Of Presidents, Prime Ministers, and Princes, by Anthony Holden (Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £10.95).

Russett and St Mark's, by John Urrau (Thames & Hudson, £12.50).

Russell of the Times, by Caroline Chapman (Bell & Hyman, £12.95).

Sir John Soane Architect, by Dorothy Stroud (Faber, £22).

The Private Lives of English Writers, by Louis Heller, Alexander Humez, and Malcolm Dorr (Routledge & Kegan Paul, £12.95).

The Seen Ages of the British Army, by Field Marshal Lord Carver (Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £12.95).

The Oxford Illustrated History of Britain, edited by Kenneth O. Morgan (Oxford, £15).

Anniversaries

Births: Linnaeus (Carl von Linné), botanist, South Rastatt, Sweden, 1707; William Hunter, obstetrician and medical writer, Long Calderwood, Lanarkshire, 1718; Franz Mesmer, physician, near Weil, Celis, 1734; Sir Charles Barry, architect, London, 1795; Thomas Hood, poet, London, 1795.

Deaths: Girolamo Savonarola, preacher and martyr, burned and buried, Florence, 1498; John Wain (Wood of Bath), architect and town planner, Bath, 1754; Henrik Ibsen, actor, 1906; John D. Rockefeller, Ormond Beach, Florida, 1937.

Peregrines return

Peregrines have returned to breed in the Forest of Dean after an absence of 30 years. The birds can be seen from Symonds Yat between Monmouth and Ross-on-Wye, south of Whitechurch on the B4432. Further information from the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds at Driffield, W. Midlands, tel 0905 770557/779433, or contact their headquarters at Sandy, Beds: tel 0767 80551.

The pound

	Bank	Bank
Australia \$	1.61	1.53
Austria Sch	28.10	26.50
Belgium Fr	31.10	27.50
Canada \$	1.88	1.78
Denmark Kr	14.49	13.79
Finland Mk	8.38	7.98
France F	12.18	11.58
Germany DM	3.54	3.76
Greece Dr	159.50	149.50
Hong Kong \$	11.29	10.69
Ireland £	1.29	1.23
Italy Lira	2425.00	2325.00
Netherlands Gld	338.00	322.0
Norway Kr	11.27	10.72
Portugal Esc	200.00	190.00
Spain Ptas	216.25	205.25
Sweden Kr	11.75	11.15
Switzerland Fr	3.27	3.10
USA \$	1.44	1.39
Yugoslavia Dnr	1.23	1.23

Rates for most Commonwealth bank notes only, as supplied yesterday by Barclays Bank International Ltd. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques and other foreign currency business.

Retail Price Index: 345.1.

London: The FT closed down 19.8 at 856.3.

Roads

London and SE: A324: Temporary lights at St Johns Rd, west side of Woking, Surrey. A23: One lane each way on Brighton town boundary, E Sussex. A219: Restrictions between Fulham Rd and Little Rd, Fulham.

Wales and W: M4: Delays on Severn Bridge, only one lane eastbound. A48: Eastbound single line traffic at Caerwent to Newport at Coedy-Caeuau. A48: Eastbound single line traffic on Cardiff Rd, Newport. A354: Delays at Dorchester to Blandford on Puddletown.

The Midlands: A38: Delays on Southbound carriageway between the Watlington roundabout (A61) junction, at Alfreton and the M1 roundabout at junction 23 near Matlock, Derbyshire. A34: Contraflow between Stone and Newcastle at Sroogton. A6: Contraflow between Derby and Leicester at Watnall.

The North: A19: Delays at Burn, SW of Selby. A695: Delays at Stanley Burn Bridge, Gateshead. A6936: Delays at Bradford Rd, Shelf, Halifax.

Scotland: A82: Delays north of Tarbet, Resurfacing at various locations in Dumfries. A737: Delays at Johnston roundabout, on Beith Rd at Cochrane Mill Rd.

Information supplied by the AA.

The papers

The Daily Mirror says if the will had been there, Mr Arthur Scargill and Mr Ian MacGregor would have been talking to each other weeks ago. It adds that in the 11th week of a disastrous strike, it is in the national interest, not just the Coal Board's or the miners' to settle the dispute. "But a settlement on the basis of that victory for one combatant and that defeat for the other would do no good. There is no reason to believe the ambition of one should be the enemy of the other."

It adds that the first requirement for peace in the mines is a willingness to talk.

The Daily Express says that to fail to understand a woman's terrible longing for children she is unable to bear, would be to lack both imagination and humanity. Just as they understand too, instinctively, that there is something profoundly wrong with "surrogate motherhood". It ignores the profound relationship that exists between a woman and the baby she has nurtured with her blood and brought into the world.

It adds: "women who want, but cannot have children should have all our sympathy and understanding but our help should stop short of endorsing surrogate motherhood, without the strictest controls."

Weather forecast

Pressure will remain low near the UK, sunny intervals developing in W and S, isolated showers

6am to midnight

London, SE, Central S, E, SW, Central N, England, E, Angles, W Midlands, Cheshire, Lancs, NE, Wales: Sunny, sunny intervals developing but scattered showers; winds, mainly E light or moderate; max temp 18C (64F).

N Wales, NE, England, Lake District, Isle of Man: Rather cloudy, a little rain in places; winds variable light; max temp 16C (61F).

Belfast, Edinburgh, Dundee, Aberdeen, Glasgow, Central Highlands, Moray Firth, NE Scotland, Orkney, Shetland: Fog patches in places, bright at times; winds, NE moderate or fresh locally; max temp 14C (57F).

SW, NW Scotland, Argyll, Northern Ireland: Bright or sunny periods, isolated showers developing; winds, NE moderate or fresh locally; max temp 19C (66F).

SEA PASSAGES: S North Sea, Straits of Dover: Wind variable light, locally moderate showers, visibility mainly good. Sea slight. English Channel: NE wind E strong to gale decreasing to moderate, rain then showers, visibility moderate; sea rough. Irish Sea: Wind NE strong backing N moderate, mainly fair, visibility moderate with fog. Sea rough becoming slight. Irish Sea: Wind NE backing N, moderate, rain at times, visibility moderate with fog, sea slight.

Sun rises: 4:58 am **Sun sets:** 8:58 pm

Moon rises: 2:51 am **Moon sets:** 12:48 pm

New Moon: May 30.

Lighting-up time

London 9.28 pm to 4.27 am
Bristol 8.57 pm to 4.37 am
Edinburgh 10.04 pm to 4.15 am
Manchester 8.40 pm to 4.25 am
Penzance 8.43 pm to 4.55 am

Yesterday

Temperatures at midday yesterday: C, cloud; F, rain; s, sun.

City	C	F
Belfast	10	50
Birmingham	12	54
Bristol	17	63
Cardiff	12	54
Edinburgh	14	57
Exeter	12	54
Gloucester	12	54
Leeds	12	54
London	12	54
Manchester	12	54
Newcastle	12	54
Nottingham	12	54
Sheffield	12	54
Southampton	12	54
Stoke	12	54
Sunderland	12	54
Torquay	12	54
Wolverhampton	12	54

Highest and lowest

Yesterday's highest day temp: Manchester, 18C (64F); lowest day temp: Gwent, 12C (54F); highest night temp: Manchester, 15C (59F); lowest night temp: Gwent, 8C (46F).

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Registered as a newspaper at the Post Office.



High tides

Location	Time	Height
London Bridge	8:23	5.8
Albrighton	8:23	5.8
Amblecote	8:23	5.8
Canterbury	8:23	5.8
Cardiff	8:23	5.8
Dorchester	8:23	5.8
Exeter	8:23	5.8
Gloucester	8:23	5.8
Leeds	8:23	5.8
London	8:23	5.8
Manchester	8:23	5.8
Newcastle	8:23	5.8
Nottingham	8:23	5.8
Sheffield	8:23	5.8
Southampton	8:23	5.8
Stoke	8:23	5.8
Sunderland	8:23	5.8
Torquay	8:23	5.8
Wolverhampton	8:23	5.8

Around Britain

Location	Time	Height
London Bridge	8:23	5.8
Albrighton	8:23	5.8
Amblecote	8:23	5.8
Canterbury	8:23	5.8
Cardiff	8:23	5.8
Dorchester	8:23	5.8
Exeter	8:23	5.8
Gloucester	8:23	5.8
Leeds	8:23	5.8
London	8:23	5.8
Manchester	8:23	5.8
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Nottingham	8:23	5.8
Sheffield	8:23	5.8
Southampton	8:23	5.8
Stoke	8:23	5.8
Sunderland	8:23	5.8
Torquay	8:23	5.8
Wolverhampton	8:23	5.8

Abroad

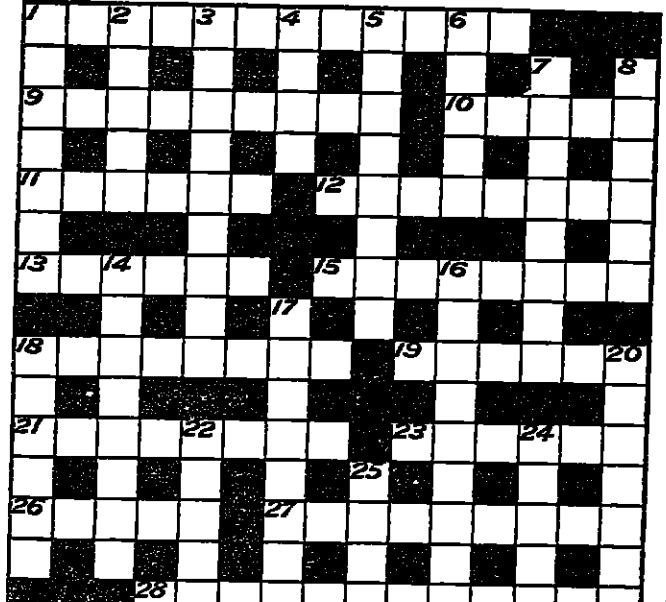
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Wolverhampton	8:23	5.8

Today's events

Royal engagements
The Princess of Wales, President, visits The Albany community centre, on the Douglas Way, London, SE8, 11.
Princess Anne, President of the British Olympic Association, attends the Royal Yachting Association's Weymouth Olympic Regatta 1984 in Weymouth Bay, Dorset, 12.10.

The Times Crossword Puzzle No 16,437

This puzzle was solved within 30 minutes by 31 per cent of the competitors at this year's Leeds regional final of the Collins Dictionaries Times Crossword Championship.



- ACROSS**
- For drying caparisons (7-5).
 - Reused ill-treated calculator (5-4).
 - Terrorists who can give us the slip (5).
 - Where vessel docked with two painters in the middle of Bath (6).
 - Flag, one way and another (8).
 - Hay-riks not ever troubled in spirit (6).
 - In the early stage, how creditors start to foreclose (8).
 - Sack in which sailors keep shanties (5-3).
 - Stopped being spoken of as sober (6).
 - Me a clerk? Confound it, I'm a swimmer! (8).
 - Miss Woodhouse rang back, wanting an insignificant weight (6).
 - Victor drops first point in the ring (5).
 - Unions - every one rises from forebears (9).
 - Ship following after them, always left down (3,9).
- DOWN**
- Russian ship with a bird circling (7).
 - She wrote in two languages. That's right! (5).
 - Over the man further up, we hear, in the grading system (9).
 - Bullet - it moves slowly (4).
 - Upset about act (8).
 - Shandy's inventor, they say, is back (3).
 - Revenue officials unfortunately are rusty (8).
 - From which captain directs the game (6).
 - Close it up with new wrapping (8).
 - Yowl - provide a sound barrier (9).
 - Time to conceal where the fruit comes from (4-4).
 - Commit murder to get estate (6).
 - Doctor, old to be right person to assist surgeon (7).
 - Time to conceal where the fruit comes from (4-4).
 - Commit murder to get estate (6).
 - Doctor, old to be right person to assist surgeon (7).
 - Time to conceal where the fruit comes from (4-4).
 - Commit murder to get estate (6).
 - Doctor, old to be right person to assist surgeon (7).

Solution of Puzzle No 16,436

ACROSS
1. DRYING
2. CALCULATOR
3. TERRORISTS
4. BATH
5. FLAG
6. HAYRIKS
7. CREDITORS
8. SACK
9. STOPPED
10. ME
11. MISS WOODHOUSE
12. VICTOR
13. UNIONS
14. SHIP
15. RUSSIAN
16. SHE
17. OVER
18. BULLET
19. UPSET
20. SHANDY
21. REVENUE
22. FROM
23. CLOSE
24. YOWL
25. TIME
26. COMMIT
27. DOCTOR
28. TIME
29. COMMIT
30. DOCTOR
31. TIME

DOWN
1. DRYING
2. CALCULATOR
3. TERRORISTS
4. BATH
5. FLAG
6. HAYRIKS
7. CREDITORS
8. SACK
9. STOPPED
10. ME
11. MISS WOODHOUSE
12. VICTOR
13. UNIONS
14. SHIP
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20. SHANDY
21. REVENUE
22. FROM
23. CLOSE
24. YOWL
25. TIME
26. COMMIT
27. DOCTOR
28. TIME
29. COMMIT
30. DOCTOR
31. TIME

Tomorri

Surrogate motherhood

degraded

Rail threat

recedes

Cannes award

Tradition will

Redeem to pol

Cash shops

Perfect tomb

Gower century

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Parliament

Science

Sports

Theatre

Weather